



October 6, 2005

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-36-2005

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – SEPTEMBER 2005

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| a. Transit Pilot Force | 275 |
| b. Pilots in Training | 0 |
| c. Tugs | 24 |
| d. Locomotives | 100 |

2. Traffic Statistics:

| | <u>Average Daily</u> | <u>High Daily</u> | <u>Low Daily</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Arrivals | 31.07 | 46 | 18 |
| Oceangoing Transits | 31.30 | 42 | 20 |
| Canal Waters Time (hours) | 25.42 | 44.30 | 14.60 |
| In-Transit Time (hours) | 10.38 | 14.91 | 7.41 |

| Distribution of Oceangoing Transits: | <u>Total</u> | <u>Average Daily</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Vessels of less than 80' Beam | 316 | 10.53 | 33.65 |
| Vessels 80' Beam and Over | <u>623</u> | <u>20.77</u> | 66.35 |
| Total of Oceangoing Transits: | 939 | 31.30 | |
| Vessels 100' Beam and Over | 413 | 13.77 | 43.98 |
| Vessels 900' Length and Over | 113 | 3.77 | 12.03 |

Note: For the purpose of this report, the term "oceangoing transits" is equivalent to the number of locomotive transits.

| Booking Slots: | <u>Available</u> | <u>Used</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Large Vessels (beam 91' and over) | 375 | 347 | 92.53 |
| Regular vessels (beam < 91') | 230 | 200 | 86.96 |

3. See next page for scheduled locks maintenance work and items of interest to the shipping community.

4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on October 31, 2005.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

Scheduled Locks Maintenance Work:

| SCHEDULED LOCKS MAINTENANCE WORK – FISCAL YEAR 2006 | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Dates | Miraflores | Pedro Miguel | Gatun | Transit Capacity | Status |
| Nov. 7-17/05 | | | Lane w-restrictions (10d) | 36 (10d) | Confirmed |
| Jun. 14-23/06 | Lane w-restrictions (10d) | | | 36 (10d) | Tentative |
| July 11-20/06 | | | Lane w-restrictions (10d) | 36 (10d) | Tentative |
| Aug. 12-14/06 | | | Lane w-restrictions (3d) | 36 (3d) | Tentative |
| Aug. 15-19/06 | | | Lane Outage (5d) | 26-28 (5d) | Tentative |
| Aug. 20-24/06 | | | Lane w-restrictions (5d) | 36 (5d) | Tentative |
| Sept. 12-19/06 | | | Lane Outage (8d) | 26-28 (8d) | Tentative |

Transit Capacity: The normal capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 transits per day. This capacity is reduced during locks outages, as indicated in the above table. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting. Normally, during these periods, the Panama Canal Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized. Whenever a set of locks requires a major outage of one of its two lanes for dry chamber inspection, miter gate repairs, tow track work or other major maintenance/improvement projects, advantage may be taken of this requirement to perform simultaneous single lane outages for additional maintenance at other locks. Two-day lane outages have no significant impact on Canal vessel backlog, therefore are not normally included in this chart.

PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY FORMS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY

Florida’s largest port is the latest to strike an agreement with the Panama Canal, a historic move to boost trade along the “All-Water Route” from Asia to America’s East Coast via the Panama Canal. The alliance will increase cooperation, such as joint marketing, between the Panama Canal and the Port of Tampa.

The event was highlighted by the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Canal Administrator, Alberto Alemán Zubieta, and Tampa Port Director and CEO, Richard Wainio. By mutual agreement, the ACP/Tampa MOU will be in effect for one year and will be renewable on an annual basis. Attending the ceremony was the Mayor of Tampa, Pam Iorio, several representatives from the Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from the Panama Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), the Panama Maritime Chamber; Rubén Arosemena Valdés, Director of the Panama Maritime Authority and Second Vice-President of the Republic of Panama.

During the past few years, containerized cargo transiting the Panama Canal on the “All-Water Route” has experienced significant growth, creating jobs and contributing to economic development.

“We are very excited to begin this new relationship with the Port of Tampa. Tampa is one of the fastest growing ports in the United States. We look forward to working with them to provide a safe, reliable and efficient service to our customers and serve the expected traffic and tonnage growth of the ‘All-Water Route,’” said Canal Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta.

The Tampa Port Authority is the largest port in Florida and handles nearly 50 million tons of cargo per year, or half of the state’s total seaborne cargo tonnage. Tampa is also the closest full service U.S. port to the Panama Canal, and its strategic location provides the most direct route to Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Port, which reliably moves container, bulk, break bulk, ro-ro, refrigerated and project cargoes, is currently expanding its container terminal handling capacity. Tampa is Florida’s largest market and one of the fastest growing markets in the United States.

“There will be real, tangible benefits from this agreement between the ACP and Tampa – a win-win situation for our customers, the people living in Tampa and southern Florida and the Canal.

The joint marketing, exchange of ideas and the sharing of information on modernization projects demonstrate our desire to execute solutions for the long-term growth needs of the shipping community and international trade,” Alemán concluded.