



November 14, 2002

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-40-2002

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – OCTOBER 2002

1. Statistical Summary:

- a. Transit Pilot Force 282
- b. Pilots in Training 0
- c. Tugs 23
- d. Locomotives 100
- e. Traffic Statistics (Preliminary):

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	29.9	42.0	19.0
Oceangoing Transits (Includes Handlines)	29.6	36.0	22.0
Canal Waters Time (Hrs.)	17.7	22.0	13.3
In-Transit Time (Hrs.)	8.9	11.0	6.9
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Bookings	377	263	114

2. Scheduled Locks Outages:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS OUTAGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003						
Dates	No. of Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Daily Transit Capacity	Status
Nov 18 - 28, 2002	11	Lane Outage	Lane Outage	Lane Outage(6)	26 - 28	Confirmed
Jun 2 - 12, 2003	11		Lane Outage		30 - 32	Tentative
Jul 7 - 17, 2003	11	Lane Outage	Culvert Outage (8d)		28 - 30	Tentative
Aug 11 - 22, 2003	12		Lane Outage	Lane Outage	26 - 28	Tentative
Sept 15 - 26, 2003	12	Lane Outage		Lane Outage	26 - 28	Tentative

Note: 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.

Transit Capacity: The normal capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 vessel 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 Vessel Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized.

- 3. See reverse for items of interest to the shipping community.
- 4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on November 30, 2002.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

Canal Performance

In October 2002, oceangoing transits totaled 917, or a daily average of 29.6. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 379, or 40.8 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 17.7 hours.

International Association of Maritime Economists meets in Panama

With the theme “*Setting the Foundations for Port and Shipping Policies*”, Panama hosted the prestigious annual meeting of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME). The meeting was held from November 12 to 15 and representatives from shipping companies, top universities, maritime training agencies, port authorities, government agencies and international organizations from more than 35 countries participated in this annual gathering.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the IAME’s annual meeting brought together scholars and policymakers to discuss important topics related to shipping and global commerce, such as the shipping market and maritime policies; port investment and public regulation; logistics, technology and intermodal networks.

This was the first IAME annual meeting in Latin America. In choosing Panama as the host, IAME organizer Lilibeth Langoni, from the Panama Canal Authority’s (ACP) Executive Administration Office said: “The preferred method for transporting goods to and from Latin American is maritime. The Panama Canal is at the heart of the Americas, right in the middle of the continent, providing passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, and enabling more than 144 routes to connect countries and markets to serve world commerce.” Canal Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta, said: “This event is an opportunity for the ACP to share with its visitors Panama’s vision for its future as an international transport hub and main multimodal logistics center for Latin America.”

The annual meeting was held as Panama begins its celebration of the first centennial as a Republic. Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso inaugurated the gathering. IAME is composed of more than 300 members in 35 nations. Its objective is to serve as a forum for the exchange of information and views on economic aspects of the shipping sector among professors, business executives in the field, and government officials.

Panama Canal Achieves Significant Operational Milestones

Panama Canal Administrator, Alberto Alemán Zubieta, highlighted the strategic commercial importance of the canal to the U.S. economy during Panama Week in Washington, D.C., as well as the significant operational milestones reached by the Panama Canal, citing the impressive safety record of only 17 accidents out of 13,182 transits while maintaining a low Canal waters time of 27.9. Alemán Zubieta said: “The Panama Canal transits 14 percent of total U.S. sea borne trade, and approximately 60 percent of Canal traffic originates and ends at U.S. ports. The Canal, therefore, provides an excellent all water route that connects U.S. ports to Latin America and Asia –it is the best bargain and alternative for the U.S.”

Administrator Alemán was the keynote speaker at a luncheon event sponsored by the U.S. Panama Business Council in Washington D.C., where U.S. government officials and representatives from international organizations and private companies met to discuss economic and commercial issues of importance to Panama. He also reported that business at the Canal is doing well, despite the current global economic slowdown. Canal toll revenues reached \$588.8 million for fiscal year 2002, further highlighting the value of the Canal to world commerce by stating: “The Canal is the best alternative compared to other all-water routes.”

The Canal Administrator updated the participants on the status of the Canal’s ongoing modernization programs, referring particularly to the increased security measures, the widening of Gaillard Cut, the acquisition of new locomotives and tugboats, the hydraulic conversion and tow track rehabilitation program and the ISO-certification including the new simulator center at the Authority. He also mentioned that the Authority is studying various options to increase the Canal’s capacity to accommodate future Canal traffic.

Alemán Zubieta concluded by saying that, “All the impressive records and achievement of the Canal has been possible because of the Canal’s best resource –its people. Every Canal employee works tirelessly to provide a high-quality, seamless, uninterrupted, cost-effective and reliable service to all its customers”