

September 8, 2004

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-45-2004

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary –AUGUST 2004

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	279
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	32.77	42	23
Oceangoing Transits	32.90	42	24
Canal Waters Time (hours)	28.88	57.5	14.98
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.82	18.19	7.31

Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 80' Beam	368	11.87	33.08
Vessels 80' Beam and Over	<u>652</u>	<u>21.03</u>	63.92
Total of Oceangoing Transits:	1020	32.90	
Vessels 100' Beam and Over	444	14.32	43.53
Vessels 900' Length and Over	106	3.42	10.39

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)	345	329	95.36
Regular vessels (beam < 91')	261	210	80.46

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 September 30, 2004.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director



Scheduled Locks Maintenance Work:

UPDATED SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE AND OUTAGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004						
Dates	No. of Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Daily Transit Capacity	Status
Sept. 23 - 28	6			Culvert Outage*	34 - 36	Confirmed
Oct. 6 - 13	8			Lane Outage	26 - 28	Confirmed

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. Two-day lane outages have no significant impact on Canal vessel backlog, therefore are not normally included in this chart. 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.

* The culvert outage should have no adverse impact on the Canal’s normal service level, since arrivals are typically lowest in September and all lanes will be in service.

Item of Interest for the Shipping Community:

CANAL APPOINTS ACTING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) Board of Directors announced that, Engineer Manuel Benitez has been designated the acting Deputy Administrator of the ACP.

“Mr. Manuel Benitez has made important contributions to the Canal through his tenacity and hard work. Over the last four years, he has headed a department that embodies the new philosophy of the waterway - maximizing the Canal’s resources for the benefit of the country,” said Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta.

Mr. Benitez has been in charge of the Industrial Services Department, responsible for operating and maintaining the water supply, electric energy and water-chilled air conditioning system for the Canal. The Industrial Services Department also manages the operation of a shipyard, which serves to maintain the Canal’s industrial and floating equipment.

Mr. Benitez began his career at the Panama Canal in 1978, where he has held several positions, including: acting manager of the High Voltage Electricity Branch, manager of the Utilities Maintenance Branch of the Maintenance Division, manager of the Power Branch, and manager of the Electrical Division.

The position of Deputy Administrator recently vacated upon the appointment of Dr. Ricaurte Vasquez to Minister of Finance and Economy and to the concurrent position of chairman of the ACP Board of Directors.

Mr. Benitez holds a bachelor’s degree in Electromechanical Engineering from the Technological University of Panama. He also holds post-graduate studies from Cornell University.