

March 11, 2003

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-04-2003

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – FEBRUARY 2003

1. Statistical Summary:

- a. Transit Pilot Force 281
- b. Pilots in Training 0
- c. Tugs 24
- d. Locomotives 100
- e. Traffic Statistics (Preliminary):

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	34.4	47.0	22.0
Oceangoing Transits (Excludes handlines)	34.2	39.0	26.0
Canal Waters Time (Hrs.)	24.2	34.9	15.2
In-Transit Time (Hrs.)	10.3	12.8	8.4
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Bookings	489	274	215

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
Jun 2 - 12, 2003	11		Lane Outage		30 – 32	Tentative
Jul 7 - 17, 2003	11	Lane Outage	Culvert Outage (8d)		30 – 32	Tentative
Aug 11 - 22, 2003	12		Lane Outage		30 – 32	Tentative
Sept 15 - 25, 2003	11	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. Two-day lane outages have no significant impact on Canal vessel backlog.

- 3. See reverse for items of interest to the shipping community.
- 4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on March 31, 2003.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director



ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

Canal Performance

In February 2003, oceangoing transits totaled 957, or a daily average of 34.2. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 398, or 40.8 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 24.2 hours.

Panama to promote adoption of new maritime security regime

Members of the Panama Canal Authority International Advisory Board met with the Canal's Board of Directors and agreed on the need to promote the adoption of the new maritime protection regime approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which will go into effect July 2004. The IMO regime seeks the support of the international maritime community and establishes courses of action in the event of terrorist threats to vessels, their crews, passengers or cargo and port installations.

Board of Directors Chairman and Minister for Canal Affairs Jerry Salazar stressed his support to all efforts headed to offer a safer transit service to Canal customers and assured the Advisory Board of his support to the ACP administration to maintain the agency's financial autonomy. It was agreed that it is imperative that Panama honors all amendments made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. To this regard, the Advisory Board stated its satisfaction with the initiatives implemented at the Canal regarding maritime security, and praised all actions being taken by the ACP to comply with recent amendments made to the SOLAS Convention and the ISPS Code. In addition, the Advisory Board made positive remarks on the Panamanian administration of the Canal, highlighting its professionalism, and praised the clarity and transparency of its finances.

The Advisory Board, through its chairman William O'Neil, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), congratulated the ACP for the efficient administration of its resources, which translated into important savings during the past fiscal year, as well as the way Panama administers and operates one of the world's most important waterways.

Lloyd's List Recognizes Captain Orlando Allard

The shipping journal Lloyd's List, one of the most important maritime information sources in the world, presented Panamanian Captain Orlando Allard, manager on sabbatical from the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) Maritime Training and Development Section, with the "2003 Maritime Excellence Award" in the category of Maritime Training and Education. Captain Allard currently serves as Panamanian Ambassador to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The award presented to Allard recognizes his efforts, along with a team of professionals, to train hundreds of Panamanian pilots.

When the Panama Canal transition began, the number of tugboat masters and Canal pilots was very small. It was in 1982 that Captain Allard launched the Pilot Understudy Program (PUP) and the Pilot In Training Program (PIP). Through the years, more than 250 pilots were trained under these two programs, and by the time the Canal was transferred in 1999, most Canal pilots were Panamanian.

Allard said that the award represents a recognition from the international shipping community to the Republic of Panama and pointed out that it must be seen as the result of the efforts conducted by Canal authorities to enable the training of Panamanian personnel. "I really do not see the award as a personal achievement, but as a recognition to the achievement of the Canal organization. That is why I think it is so relevant to Panama: because it recognizes Panama's efforts during the entire 20-year transition period," he added.

Captain Allard highlighted that a great deal of the pilot training programs' success was due to their hands-on approach. "Both the PUP and the PIP were mostly conducted in the field, side by side with professional pilots and experienced tugboat masters," he explained.

According to Allard, due to the efforts carried out for two decades and to ACP's recent investments in Ship Handling Simulation, the Canal is recording the lowest accident rate in its history today.