

July 11, 2003

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-21-2003

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – JUNE 2003

1. Statistical Summary:

- a. Transit Pilot Force 280
- 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	32.4	42.0	15.0
Oceangoing Transits	31.7	38.0	23.0
Canal Waters Time (Hrs.)	24.69	41.78	14.06
In-Transit Time (Hrs.)	10.07	15.80	8.42
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Booked Transits	469	278	191

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
Jul 7 - 17, 2003	11	Lane Outage			30 – 32	Ongoing
Aug 11 - 22, 2003	12		Lane Outage	Lane Outage(5d)	26 – 28	Confirmed
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 July 31, 2003.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director



ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

CANAL PERFORMANCE

In June 2003, oceangoing transits totaled 950, or a daily average of 31.7. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 364, or 37.7 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 24.69 hours.

PANAMA CANAL ESTABLISHES STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH U.S. EAST COAST PORTS

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced a historic move by partnering with several U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports to boost trade. Over the past several weeks, the ACP has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with major U.S. ports, beginning with the Port of New York and New Jersey, Norfolk, Virginia; Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Houston, Texas. These partnerships will increase cooperation, such as joint marketing, between the Panama Canal and the ports and will seek to boost trade along the All-Water-Route from Asia to the U.S. East Coast via the Panama Canal, a reliable, economical and safe link to bring Asian goods to U. S customers. They also exemplify the desire of all parties to work together to promote economic development, generate jobs and increase trade.

“Having recently shifted our model to run the Canal as a business, these partnerships with the ports are an example of ACP’s aggressive strategy to improve services for our customers, generate economic development in port areas and increase trade along the All-Water Route,” said Canal Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta. “There will be real, tangible benefits from these agreements - a win-win for our customers, the ports and the Canal. The joint marketing, exchange of ideas and shared modernization projects demonstrate that we will execute solutions for the long-term growing needs of the shipping community and international trade,” Alemán concluded.