

January 21, 2004

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-05-2004

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – DECEMBER 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	34.30	46.00	26.00
Oceangoing Transits*	34.30	40.00	25.00
Canal Waters Time (hours)	26.17	36.95	18.04
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.51	13.24	8.96

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Booked Transits	548	318	230

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

2. Scheduled Locks Outages:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS OUTAGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004						
Dates	No. of Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Daily Transit Capacity	Status
Jan 21 – 24, 2004	3	Lane Outage			30 - 32	Confirmed
Feb 4 – 6, 2004	3	Lane Outage			30 - 32	Tentative
May 31 – June 10, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
July 5-15, 2004	11		Lane Outage	Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
August 9-19, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Sept 13-23, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Oct 18-28, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Dec 2004	3			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, therefore are not normally included in this chart.

- 3. See reverse for items of interest to the shipping community.
- 4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on January 31, 2004.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director



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ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

CANAL PERFORMANCE

In December 2003, oceangoing transits totaled 1053, or a daily average of 34.0. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 468, or 44.0 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 26.17 hours.

PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT, CANAL BOARD CHAIRMAN AND CANAL ADMINISTRATOR UNVEIL NEW VISITORS' CENTER AT MIRAFLORES LOCKS

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY WILL SERVE AS PRIVILEGED LOCATION TO OBSERVE CANAL

SOPHISTICATED EXHIBITS AND INTERACTIVE PRESENTATIONS WILL HIGHLIGHT HISTORY AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S ENGINEERING WONDER

In an opening ceremony, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) unveiled its new, state-of-the-art visitors' center. Hosted by ACP Administrator/CEO Alberto Alemán Zubieta, the Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso and Minister for Canal Affairs and Board Chairman Jerry Salazar, officially opened the impressive new facility located at the Miraflores Locks, near the Canal's Pacific entrance. The event was attended by the Canal's Board of Directors, the Panamanian Cabinet Council, ACP Directors, the public and the media. Valued at several million dollars, the facility will serve as a hub for tourism, education and recreation.

The Miraflores Visitors' Center is a four-story structure with balconies that provide a spectacular view of the Miraflores Locks and its surrounding area. A lookout deck on the fourth floor has a tremendous panoramic view of the global gateway. The complex includes exhibits and interactive displays of some of the Canal's recent investments in technology systems. Instructive pavilions will demonstrate to visitors the Canal's complex operations and the resources necessary to transit a vessel through the Isthmus.

This facility will serve as an informative focal point for tourism destined to visit the Canal, with several exhibits areas, a sophisticated 193-seat theater for multimedia presentations and movies, and an elegant dining restaurant. Inside, visitors will learn about one of the world's greatest engineering marvels and the courageous men and women who dedicated their lives to its completion. An array of enlightening exhibits will connect the Canal's historical engineering feats with the essential role it serves in today's global economy. The themes of the exhibit vary from floor to floor: the first floor focuses on history; the second on water; the third on technology; and the fourth on the future.

"We are very proud to open our doors and extend an invitation to anyone interested in the Canal: how it was created, how it runs and where it is going. This phenomenal new complex truly brings to life the story of the Canal - and in a hands-on, beautiful setting," said ACP Administrator/CEO Alberto Alemán Zubieta.