

February 13, 2004

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-10-2004

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – JANUARY 2004

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	35.6	49	25
Oceangoing Transits*	35.2	41	27
Canal Waters Time (hours)	27.70	35.64	19.24
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.09	14.63	8.49

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Booked Transits	590	341	249

***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
April 21 - 24, 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

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 February 29, 2004.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

CANAL PERFORMANCE

In January 2004, oceangoing transits totaled 1092, or a daily average of 35.2. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 437, or 40.0 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 27.70 hours.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS EXPLORE PANAMA CANAL WATERSHED

PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY (ACP) HOSTS JASON PROJECT

The rainforest of Barro Colorado Island in Gatun Lake located along the Panama Canal, was inhabited by more life than usual when 24 students and six teachers were welcomed by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) from January 26 to February 6, 2004, joining scientists and researchers for the 15th Annual JASON Project: *Rainforests at the Crossroads*. While in Panama, teachers and students, or “Argonauts,” investigated the geological history of the Canal watershed at the Barro Colorado Island’s Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The students researched and monitored the rainforest to understand how the region functions and changes through time, and also examined how human technology influences its geography, hydrology and biology. Their adventures were broadcast daily on the Internet.

The “Argonauts” slept in the rainforest and embarked on several adventures during the day, including being hoisted to the tops of canopy trees and taking a trip through a portion of the Canal. At the new Miraflores Locks Visitor’s Center the ACP hosted a Primary Interactive Network Site (PINS), a location for Panamanian students and teachers to view the two-week long live broadcasts. The ACP also provided behind-the-scenes tours for VIPs and offered special Canal services.

Panama Canal Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta stated: “The ACP is proud to be part of the JASON Project. As stewards of the Canal and its watershed, we were delighted to assist these students with their expedition. Indeed, JASON’s founder, Dr. Robert Ballard, has created a truly dynamic and innovative program that is a great blend of hands-on learning and technology. We were pleased that we could help make the project a success.”

Since the JASON Project’s inception in 1989, millions of students have explored a number of exotic locations, including the Galapagos Islands, the Mediterranean, the Sea of Cortez, among others, through on-line components, pre-produced video, live interactive broadcasts, etc. A non-profit educational organization headquartered in Needham, Massachusetts, the JASON Foundation for Education seeks to inspire in students a lifelong passion to pursue learning in science, math and technology through exploration and discovery.

Prior to its relationship with the JASON Foundation in 2001, the Canal initiated a school outreach program entitled, “El Canal de Todos,” whereby high school students and teachers are invited to the ACP for a day of lectures and a partial Canal transit. A similar program, “Niños de la Cuenca,” is designed for grade school children. As a result of these programs, Panamanian students are well informed regarding the Canal and its operations, as well as its importance to Panama.