

June 9, 2004

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-29-2004

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – MAY 2004

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	279
b. Pilots in Training	0
c. Tugs	24
d. Locomotives	100

e. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	36.81	49	24
Oceangoing Transits	35.90	43	28
Canal Waters Time (hours)	20.11	24.49	13.70
In-Transit Time (hours)	9.91	10.90	7.58

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Ships 80' Beam and Over	684	22.06	61.40
Ships 100' Beam and Over	473	15.26	42.50
Ships 900' Length and Over	95	3.06	8.53

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

Booked Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
	559	340	219

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Large Vessels	369	340	92.14
Regular vessels	277	219	79.06

2. See next page for scheduled lane outages and items of interest to the shipping community.

3. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on June 30, 2004.

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

4. Scheduled Locks Outages:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS OUTAGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004						
Dates	No. of Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Daily Transit Capacity	Status
July 5-15, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Confirmed
August 9-19, 2004	11		Lane Outage	Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Sept 13-23, 2004	11	Lane Outage(3d)		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.

5. Items of interest for the Shipping Community:

The New Miraflores Visitors Center at the Panama Canal

The Panama Canal, an engineering wonder of the 20th century, is one of Panama’s major attractions and a top destination for the cruise industry. Luxury liners take hundreds of thousands of passengers through the Canal every year.

Visitors can now experience the grandeur of the Panama Canal’s past, present and future at the recently inaugurated Visitors Center located at Miraflores Locks. This facility consists of a four-story structure with balconies with a look-out deck on the fourth floor that provides a magnificent view of the locks and surroundings. It features exhibit areas, a conference room, a state-of-the-art theater seating 185, which is fully equipped for multimedia presentations, a gift shop with exclusive Canal souvenirs and memorabilia, a five-star restaurant, and an outdoor snack bar, offering visitors a choice of either grabbing a quick bite at the center’s snack bar or enjoying a full-course meal at the five-star restaurant.

Ongoing multimedia presentations on Canal history, operations and maintenance work are featured at this new theater. Visitors can enjoy live tours and learn interesting Canal facts, presented by professional Panama Canal guides, and experience the Canal and its dimensions live, as they tour through the new center’s exhibits. These sections establish a historical relationship between the great engineering feats and their benefits to the world. Being one of the world’s engineering marvels, the Canal has served the world as a transportation hub between two great oceans during the last century.

The creation of the Isthmus of Panama and how it served as a strategic transit route since pre-historical times, and the discovery of various material and technological inventions, all led to the construction of the Panamanian waterway. The instructive pavilions enlighten visitors on the Canal’s function and the resources necessary to complete the successful transit of a vessel. The features also contain the Canal’s new technology for transit operations, which has resulted in the computerized systems it uses today, such as the Enhanced Vessel Traffic Management System (EVTMS), GPS and others.

Another section is devoted to water as a vital element for Canal operations, and how the quality of the watershed’s environment is extremely important in guaranteeing the water supply for human consumption and for Canal use.

The tour of the new Miraflores Locks Visitors Center also pays tribute to the Canal’s most important asset – its workers. A visit to this facility, filled with interactive exhibits depicting the waterway’s past, present and future, is a must during your next visit to Panama.