

September 20, 2006

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-29-2006**

**TO: All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators**

**SUBJECT: MAJOR LOCKS OUTAGES – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FY-2007**

The long-term viability of the Panama Canal is highly dependent on the essential maintenance of the locks. Some of this maintenance work requires locks lane outages, which affects the daily average transit capacity of the Canal and, as a result, are of concern to our customers and Canal officials.

Therefore, in order to minimize the impact of these outages, as well as to assist Canal customers with their planning efforts, a tentative schedule of outages for Fiscal Year 2007 is hereby provided. Confirmation on the actual outage dates will be published as they become firm.

Tentative Schedule of Locks Maintenance Work for FY 2007						
Dates	Outage Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Transit Capacity	Status
Nov. 7-17	8	Lane with restrictions (10d)		Centerwall culvert outage (8d)	32-36 during restrictions* 30-32 during culvert outage	Tentative
Dec. 13-15	2.5		Lane Outage (30 Hrs.)	Lane Outage (60 Hrs)	26-28	Tentative
Dec. 20-22	2.5		Lane with restrictions (36 Hrs.)	Lane Outage (60 Hrs)	26-28	Tentative
June 13-22	3	Lane with restrictions (10d)	Lane Outage (3d)		32-36 during restrictions* 26-28 during outage	Tentative
July 11-20	2	Lane with restrictions (9d)	Lane Outage (2d)		32-36 during restrictions* 26-28 during outage	Tentative
Aug. 8-10	2.5			Lane Outage (60 Hrs)	26-28	Tentative
Aug. 14-23	2	Lane with restrictions (9d)	Lane Outage (2d)		32-36 during restrictions* 26-28 during outage	Tentative
Sept. 5-15	6		Lane Outage (6d)	Lane with restrictions (10d)	32-36 during restrictions* 26-28 during outage	Tentative
Sept. 26-28	2.5			Lane Outage (60 Hrs)	26-28	Tentative

\* **Note:** Actual transit capacity will depend on the type of restriction imposed during work.

The normal transit capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 vessel transits per day; however, this capacity is reduced during locks outages. The approximate daily capacity for each lock lane is shown in the table above and depends on the mix of vessels that arrive for transit. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting during locks maintenance outages. Generally, during these outages, the Panama Canal Vessel Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized.

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Subject: Major Locks Outages – Tentative Schedule FY-2007

Locks lane outages of two days or less will normally not generate a significant backlog and, therefore, are usually not published. Nonetheless, in order to provide you with as much information as possible, they have been added to the above chart.

The specific dates for these outages are subject to change, depending on the prevailing transit demands, urgency of repairs, and other circumstances. Additional resources will be provided, when deemed necessary, and the rules governing the Transit Booking System will be applied.

The booking slot available through the auction process will continue to be offered, in addition to the normally available booking slots.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Arcelio H. Hartley

Acting Maritime Operations Director