



October 9, 2006

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-30-2006

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – SEPTEMBER 2006

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	272
b. Pilots in Training	6
c. Tugs	24
d. Locomotives	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	33.90	49	20
Oceangoing Transits	33.64	40	28
Canal Waters Time (hours)	22.06	35.41	15.82
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.55	14.97	8.83

Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 80' Beam	281	9.37	27.85
Vessels 80' Beam and Over	<u>728</u>	<u>24.27</u>	72.15
Total of Oceangoing Transits:	1009	33.64	

Vessels 100' Beam and Over	517	17.23	51.24
Vessels 900' Length and Over	147	4.9	14.57

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

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Large Vessels (beam 91' and over)	426*	419*	98.36
Regular vessels (beam < 91')	216*	181*	83.80

*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

3. See next page for scheduled locks maintenance work and items of interest to the shipping community.

4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on October 31, 2006.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Arcelio H. Hartley
Acting Maritime Operations Director

Scheduled Locks Maintenance Work:

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 - Nov. 8-16 (8d)	32-36 during restrictions* 30-32 during culvert outage	Confirmed
Dec. 13-15	2.5		Lane Outage Dec. 13-14 (30 Hrs.)	Lane Outage (60 Hrs)	26-28	Tentative
Dec. 20-22	2.5		Lane with restrictions Dec. 20-21 (36 Hrs.)	Lane Outage (60 Hrs)	26-28	Tentative
June 13-22	3	Lane with restrictions (10d)	Lane Outage June 20-22 (3d)		32-36 during restrictions* 26-28 during outage	Tentative
July 11-20	2	Lane with restrictions (9d)	Lane Outage July 19-20 (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 Aug. 22-23 (2d)		32-36 during restrictions* 26-28 during outage	Tentative
Sept. 5-15	6		Lane Outage Sept. 5- 10 (6d)	Lane with restrictions Sept. 5-15 (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.

Transit Capacity: The normal capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 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 Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized. 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. Two-day lane outages have no significant impact on Canal vessel backlog, therefore are not normally included in this chart.

SINGAPOR’S FOREIGN MINISTER YEO EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION

“EXPANSION IMPORTANT FOR PANAMA AND GLOBAL ECONOMY”

On Singapore’s Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo visit to the Panama Canal September 16th, he expressed their support for the expansion proposal: "The Panama Canal expansion is important not just for Panama but for the entire [maritime] industry – for the global economy."

Foreign Minister Yeo traveled to Panama as part of an official delegation, as well as the Panamanian Ambassador to Singapore Eduardo Real. The Minister of Canal Affairs and concurrent Panama Canal Authority Board Chairman Dr. Ricaurte Vásquez, received the delegation at the Miraflores Visitor’s Center where he briefed them on the expansion proposal and Canal operations.

Earlier this year, Singapore signed a Free Trade Agreement with Panama. Foreign Minister Yeo shared with Dr. Vásquez that, “Singapore is a maritime hub. We live on trade. And the more open the world is to free movement of ships, the better it is for Singapore. We hope that you widen the Canal because it is good for the overall system.”

Panamanians will vote October 22 on the proposed expansion in a national referendum. This project proposes to build a third lane for traffic along the waterway through the construction of a new set of locks, doubling Canal capacity. The expansion will help maximize Panama’s strategic location to become the great maritime hub of the Americas.