



August 5, 2009

OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-13-2009

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – JULY 2009

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	290
b. Pilots in Training	0
c. Tugs	32
d. Locomotives	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	33.52	44	23
Oceangoing Transits	33.94	45	25
Canal Waters Time (hours)	18.82	36.87	12.43
In-Transit Time (hours)	9.10	11.15	6.77

Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' Beam	462	14.90	43.92%
Vessels 91' Beam and Over	590	19.03	56.08%
Total of Oceangoing Transits:	1052	33.94	
Vessels 100' Beam and Over	474	15.29	45.06%
Vessels 900' Length and Over	117	3.77	11.12%

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)	499*	266* ¹	53.31
Regular Vessels (beam < 91')	240*	110* ¹	45.83

*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

¹ Includes booked transits only

3. The following page provides the scheduled locks maintenance work and other items of interest to the shipping community.

4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on August 31, 2009.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Executive Vice President of Operations

ONE YEAR SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE WORK						
Dates	Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Transit Capacity¹	Status
Sept. 8-17, 2010	10			Centerwall Culvert	29-33	Tentative

The normal transit capacity of the Panama Canal is 38-40 vessels each day, depending on vessel mix and other factors. This capacity is reduced during locks maintenance work, 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.

PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY RELEASES FISCAL YEAR 2009 THIRD QUARTER METRICS

DRY BULK AND TANKER TRANSITS UP

CANAL WATERS TIME DOWN

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) released third quarter (Q3) operational metrics today for Fiscal Year 2009. In Q3, Canal Waters Time (CWT), the average time it takes a vessel to transit the Canal, including waiting time for passage, decreased significantly. Additionally, total transits and net tonnage decreased slightly. These metrics are based on operations from April through June 2009, which is the third quarter of ACP's 2009 Fiscal Year, and are compared with Q3 of Fiscal Year 2008.

Average CWT decreased 47.9 percent – to 19.96 hours from 38.31 hours. CWT for booked vessels (those ships holding reservations) decreased 26.5 percent – to 14.53 hours from 19.77 hours. In Transit Time (ITT) also decreased 26.6 percent – to 9.55 hours from 13.02 hours. The ITT begins when a vessel enters the first set of locks at either side of the Canal and ends when the vessel departs the last set of locks at the opposite side. Efficiency in Canal operations and a slight decline in transits are likely causes for the decreases in CWT and ITT.

Total Canal transits decreased 6.4 percent – to 3,576 transits from 3,821. Transits of supers, larger ships that require greater time and navigation skills to transit the Canal, declined 1.5 percent – to 1,815 transits from 1,842.

With regard to key segments, dry bulk and tanker transits increased, while vehicle carriers, general cargo, container and refrigerated (reefers) transits decreased.

Panama Canal/Universal Measurement System (PC/UMS) tonnage remained nearly constant with a slight 4.6 percent decline – to 73.7 million PC/UMS tons from 77.2 million PC/UMS tons.

Utilization of the booking system decreased 44.3 percent – to 53.19 percent utilization from 95.51 percent.

“The ACP’s third quarter metrics confirm that the Canal remains a valued service in today’s fragile financial climate,” said ACP Executive Vice President of Operations Manuel Benítez. “This past quarter we had a decrease in booking system utilization. Overall, our operational demand figures fluctuated downward only slightly while our level of service as measured by ITT and CWT increased significantly. We, at the ACP, are proud that the Canal continues to keep world trade moving safely, reliably and efficiently.”