



**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

3654-A (OPXI)  
V. 4-2-2015

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-19-2015**

July 3, 2015

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

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of Water Conservation Measures

The water levels at Gatun and Madden Lakes are currently well below the expected levels for this time of year. Based on a comprehensive analysis of historical data, both current and projected water utilization, as well as the estimated rainfall in the Canal watershed for the remainder of the rainy season, the Panama Canal has deemed it necessary to implement water conservation measures in order to reduce the possibility of imposing draft restrictions in the near future. Therefore, the following measures are being implemented:

- Suspension of *hydraulic assist* procedures at the locks for deep draft vessels;
- Maximization of the use of *cross-filling* and *cross-spilling* at the locks;
- Suspension of *special lockages* for handlines; and,
- Maximization of tandem lockages.

These measures are not expected to have a major impact on the Canal's capacity; however, some may have an impact on normal transit operations. These conservation measures are expected to remain in force until the water levels return to normal.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
Executive Vice President for Operations