

May 13, 2003

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-13-2003**

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

**SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – APRIL 2003**

1. Statistical Summary:

- a. Transit Pilot Force ..... 279
- b. Pilots in Training ..... 0
- c. Tugs ..... 24
- d. Locomotives ..... 100
- e. Traffic Statistics (Preliminary):

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	34.2	45.0	21.0
Oceangoing Transits	34.4	40.0	23.0
Canal Waters Time (Hrs.)	18.4	22.8	11.8
In-Transit Time (Hrs.)	9.4	11.5	6.8
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Booked Transits	470	271	199

2. Scheduled Locks Outages

<b>TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS OUTAGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003</b>						
<b>Dates</b>	<b>No. of Days</b>	<b>Miraflores</b>	<b>Pedro Miguel</b>	<b>Gatun</b>	<b>Daily Transit Capacity</b>	<b>Status</b>
Jun 2 - 12, 2003	11		Lane Outage		30 – 32	Confirmed
Jul 7 - 17, 2003	11	Lane Outage			30 – 32	Tentative
Aug 11 - 22, 2003	12		Lane Outage		30 – 32	Tentative
Sept 15 - 25, 2003	11	Lane Outage		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.

- 3. See reverse for items of interest to the shipping community.
- 4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on May 31, 2003.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Arcelio H. Hartley  
Acting Maritime Operations Director



## **ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY**

### **Canal Performance**

In April 2003, oceangoing transits totaled 1032, or a daily average of 34.4. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 376, or 36.3 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 18.4 hours.

### **PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES SECOND QUARTER METRICS**

Canal sets Safety Record of 172 consecutive days without Maritime Accidents, shattering previous mark from 1963.

Canal Waters Time (CWT) is also down, while Tonnage and Volume increased.

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced second quarter operational metrics that indicate that the Canal is running safer and more efficient than ever. It logged in 172 days without an accident along the waterway - a remarkable accomplishment that shatters the previous record. In 1963, the Canal went 75 days without an accident. In addition, the ACP announced today that Canal overall tonnage and volume have increased. These results exceed projections, and are based on Canal operations from January through March of 2003.

The Canal improved Canal Waters Time, which is the average time it takes a vessel to navigate the Canal including time waiting for transit, was reduced from 23.5 hours during the second quarter (January through March 2002) to 21.1 hours during the second quarter of FY2003. This reflects a decrease of 2.4 hours.

In addition, Canal PC/UMS tonnage increased during the second quarter as compared to the previous year. Canal tonnage rose from 59.1 million PC/UMS in the second quarter of FY2002 to 63.2 million PC/UMS during the second quarter of FY2003, a 6.9 percent increase.

“We know from our customers that reliability, safety and timely service are critical. When we make the Canal safer and faster, the more reliably our customers get their goods to market. These numbers are truly a testament to hard-working employees of the ACP and their complete focus on operational safety and efficiency. The Canal is operating better than ever,” said Canal Administrator, Alberto Alemán Zubieta.

Recent Canal improvement and safety projects have received positive feedback from customers. During a recent visit to Panama, Captain Wei Jiafu, president/CEO of the China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO), a major customer of the ACP, said, “The administrators of the Canal are doing an excellent job managing and operating this important waterway. The Canal’s modernization and improvement projects have enabled us [COSCO] to deliver and meet the demands of our customers by providing goods and products on time.”