

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

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-16-2017**

May 5, 2017

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

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Canal Operations Summary – APRIL 2017

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force .....	<u>275</u>
b. Pilots in Training .....	<u>6</u>
c. Tugs .....	<u>46</u>
d. Locomotives .....	<u>100</u>

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Arrivals	33.83	46	27
Oceangoing Transits	33.87	38	30
Canal Waters Time (hours)	26.35	36.00	19.23
In-Transit Time (hours)	11.56	13.03	8.95

Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	237	7.90	23.33
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	617	20.57	60.73
Neopanamax Vessels (beam 107' and over)	162	5.40	15.94
Total:	1016	33.87	100

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax Vessels (beam 107' and over)	180	156	86.67
Large Vessels (91' to 107' beam)	448*	361* <sup>1</sup>	80.58
Regular Vessels (beam less than 91')	238*	162* <sup>1</sup>	68.07
Regular Vessels (up to 300' in length)	2	2	100.00
Auctioned booking slots	8	3	37.50

\*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

<sup>1</sup> 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 May 31, 2017.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
Executive Vice President  
for Operations

OP, May 5, 2017

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<b>SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES</b>							
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Days/Hrs.</b>	<b>Miraflores</b>	<b>Pedro Miguel</b>	<b>Gatun</b>	<b>Estimated Capacity<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Expected Booking Condition<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Status</b>
8 April 2017	12 hours			West Lane **	28-30	1.a	Completed
21 April 2017	8 Hours			West Lane *	30-32	1	Completed
9-18 May 2017	10 days			East Lane **	22-24	2	Postponed
25 May, 1 June 2017	4 hours per day		West Lane*		32-34	1	Tentative
26 May, 2 June 2017	5 hours per day		West Lane*		32-34	1	Tentative
14, 16 June 2017	4 hours per day	East Lane *			32-34	1	Tentative
19, 29 June 2017	10 hours per day			East Lane *	28-30	1.a	Tentative
20, 30 June 2017	10 hours per day			West Lane *	28-30	1.a	Tentative
21-28 June 2017	8 days			Center Wall ***	26-28	1.a	Tentative
13, 14 July 2017	5 hours per day			West Lane *	32-34	1	Tentative
1-10 August 2017	10 days	East Lane **			22-24	2	Tentative
12, 13 September 2017	5 hours per day	East Lane *			32-34	1	Tentative
15 September 2017	10 hours	East Lane *			28-30	1.a	Tentative

The normal transit capacity of the Panamax locks is 34-36 vessels per day, depending on vessel mix, neopanamax transits, and other factors. This capacity is reduced during locks maintenance work, as indicated in the above table. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting. When the Panama Canal's capacity is expected to be reduced, a corresponding reduction in the number of available reserved transit slots may be ordered by the Canal Authority. 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 to perform simultaneous single lane outages at other locks.

\* In order to perform scheduled maintenance works

\*\* In order to perform scheduled dry chamber works.

\*\*\*Culvert outage

^ Panamax locks

## **Panama Canal Welcomes First Cruise Ship through New Locks, heralding New Benefits to the Cruise Industry and its Passengers**

The Expanded Panama Canal welcomed on April 29 its first passenger vessel through the new locks: the Disney Cruise Line *Disney Wonder*. The milestone signals the further diversification of traffic through the Expanded Canal and with it, introduces new repositioning opportunities for the cruise industry and benefits to its customers.

“The original Panama Canal has been a cruise destination for many years,” said Panama Canal Deputy Administrator Manuel Benitez. “Today’s historic transit marks the beginning of cruise lines being able to include the new locks as part of their itineraries, opening up additional transit options and allowing cruise passengers to witness first-hand this feat of modern engineering.”

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The *Disney Wonder* transited the Expanded Canal in a southbound direction from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean this marks part of a 14-night voyage from Port Canaveral, Fla., to San Diego, where the ship will sail cruises to Baja, Mexico, before a summer season from Vancouver to Alaska. The Disney Cruise Line 2,713-passenger ship was transformed in late 2016, expanding the length of the *Disney Wonder* to 299.92 meters, now a neopanamax size vessel will require the use of the neopanamax locks.

The *Disney Wonder* is one of several cruise ships to have transited the canal during the 2016-2017 cruise season that ends in May. Notably, the *Disney Wonder's* transit on April 29, marking the first passenger vessel utilizing the new locks of the Expanded Canal.

By the close of fiscal year 2017, ending on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Panama Canal expects 233 passenger vessels, which represents a total 237,298 passengers, to have transited both the original and new locks.

On April 1, the Panama Canal began accepting booking requests by passenger vessels for the new locks. To date, 18 reservations for the 2017-2018 season have already been made for passenger vessels to transit the Expanded Canal, a number which is expected to increase in the coming months.