



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

3654 (OPXI)  
V. 4-2-2015

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-40-2017**

December 7, 2017

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

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

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force .....	<u>274</u>
b. Pilots in Training .....	<u>0</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	32.73	44	25
Oceangoing Transits	33.13	38	25
Canal Waters Time (hours)	25.83	42.64	17.64
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.75	12.31	9.29

Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	216	7.20	21.73
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	599	19.97	60.26
Neopanamax Vessels (beam 107' and over)	179	5.97	18.01
Total:	994	33.13	100

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax Vessels (beam 107' and over)	180	159	88.33
Large Vessels (91' to 107' beam)	450*	361* <sup>1</sup>	80.22
Regular Vessels (beam less than 91')	240*	149* <sup>1</sup>	62.08
Regular Vessels (up to 300' in length)	0	0	0.00
Auctioned booking slots	5	3	60.00

\*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 December 31, 2017.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Saenz  
Executive Vice President  
for Operations

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SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES							
Dates	Duration	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Capacity <sup>^</sup>	Expected Booking Condition <sup>^</sup>	Status
1, 8 March 2018	4 hours per day		West Lane*		32-34	1	Tentative
2, 9 March 2018	5 hours per day		West Lane*		31-33	1	Tentative
21, 22 March 2018	4 hours per day		East Lane*		32-34	1	Tentative
6 April 2018	24 hours			East Lane*	22-24	2	Tentative
20 April 2018	24 hours			East Lane*	22-24	2	Tentative
4 May 2018	24 hours			East Lane*	22-24	2	Tentative
16, 17 May 2018	5 hours per day		East Lane*		31-33	1	Tentative
9, 10 June 2018	8 hours per day		East/West Lane*		28-30	1.a	Tentative
11-18 June 2018	8 days		Center Wall ***		28-30	1.a	Tentative
18, 19 June 2018	8 hours per day		East/West Lane*		28-30	1.a	Tentative
20 July 2018	8 hours			West Lane*	28-30	1.a	Tentative
26 July, 2 August 2018	4 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
27 July, 3 August 2018	5 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
14-23 August 2018	10 days			West Lane**	22-24	2	Tentative
13-14 September 2018	2 days			East Lane**	22-24	2	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

<sup>^</sup> Panamax locks

## Panama Canal Increases Daily Neopanamax Vessel Reservations to Seven

*The Panama Canal Administration is capitalizing on the larger Neopanamax Locks to increase slot availability and efficiency for customers and effective December 1, 2017* increased the number of daily booking slots available for Neopanamax vessels from six to seven.

With this measure, the Panama Canal is embracing the additional capacity allowed for by the larger locks. The seven daily booking slots for Neopanamax vessels are offered in addition to the 23 slots available each day for transit through the Panamax locks. "This increase is the direct result of our efficient, streamlined use of resources and effective collaboration as we meet the growing demand for transits through the Expanded Canal," said Panama Canal Administrator Jorge L. Quijano. "We are excited

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to offer the additional capacity, and deliver on our promise to provide unparalleled safe and efficient service to our customers.”

The additional slot is now available for ships transiting northbound (from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean), and was first offered on September 26, 2017 through a special competition in the first booking period in adherence with Panama Canal regulations.

Container vessels will have preference over other vessel types when allocating these additional slots. If no container vessels are interested, the slot will be awarded to any vessel that participated in the special competition, based on the Panama Canal Customer Ranking. After the special competition, the slots will be available to all vessels on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Neopanamax Locks can transit additional ships beyond the number of daily slots allocated. For example on November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Expanded Canal transited a record 10 Neopanamax ships which provides a daily performance that far exceeds the three to four daily transits originally expected.

Dedicated to providing the utmost safety and efficiency for its customers, the Panama Canal will continue to explore ways to expand its capacity, working toward the goal of offering eight Neopanamax reservation slots by the end of the first quarter of 2018 and gradually implementing additional measures to increase capacity in 2019.