



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

3654 (OPXI)  
V. 4-2-2015

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-32-2018**

September 7, 2018

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

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Canal Operations Summary – AUGUST 2018

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force .....	266
b. Pilots in Training .....	16
c. Tugs .....	46
d. Locomotives .....	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Arrivals	32.81	44	21
Oceangoing Transits	32.42	40	25
Canal Waters Time (hours)	25.80	36.27	18.56
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.64	12.21	8.64
Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	209	6.74	20.80
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	566	18.26	56.32
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	230	7.42	22.89
Total:	1,005	32.42	100
Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and Over)	248	177	71.37
Large Vessels (91' beam to under 107' beam)	415*	295* <sup>1</sup>	71.08
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	228*	126* <sup>1</sup>	55.26
Regular Vessels (up to 300' in length)	0	0	0
Auctioned booking slots	13	5	38.46

\* Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

<sup>1</sup> Includes booked transits only

3. The following pages provide the scheduled locks maintenance work, and other items of interest to the shipping community.

4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on September 30, 2018.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
Executive Vice President  
for Operations

<b>SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES</b>							
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Duration</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>
14-23 August 2018	10 days			West Lane**	22-24	2	Completed
9-11 September 2018	2.5 days			East Lane**	22-24	2	Confirmed
18 October 2018	12 hours	East Lane*			30-32	1.a	Tentative
15, 22 November 2018	4 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
16, 23 November 2018	5 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
27 December 2018	12 hours	West Lane*			30-32	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
- <sup>^</sup> Panamax locks

## **The 104th Anniversary: Reflecting on Our Past and Looking to the Future**

August marked the anniversary of the Inauguration of Panama Canal, set forth by the passage of the first cargo ship, the SS Ancon, 104 years ago. At the time, the Canal was considered one of the most important accomplishments to date in modern engineering. Over one million transits later, the waterway is honored to uphold its legacy and responsibility as a cornerstone for global maritime trade. Today, we not only reflect on our achievements over the past year, but also celebrate our continued role as a critical commercial route and leading logistics hub.

There is much to applaud as we look back on the past year, and even more to anticipate in the coming months. In 2018 alone, the waterway celebrated the two-year anniversary of the Expanded Canal, set a new monthly tonnage record, received recognition for its environmental efforts and welcomed the 4,000<sup>th</sup> Neopanamax transit through the locks. Daily Neopanamax vessel reservation slots were also increased to eight, marking the Expanded Canal's growing flexibility and ripple effect on world trade.

As this year's milestones demonstrate, the Panama Canal is constantly innovating to remain an efficient, safe and competitive route for global maritime trade. And while the waterway has evolved significantly over the years through various modernization endeavors, it will only continue to evolve in the years to come, as it seeks to strengthen its position and strive for new ways to remain ahead of customer and market demand.

Therefore, in the coming year, we intend to heighten the opportunities we offer, as well as the value we provide to our customers and community members alike, a mission that

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has driven cutting edge invention and collaboration at the Panama Canal for 104 years and counting. To do so, we will fortify the foundation of our success by further investing in our world-class infrastructure, services and workforce.

Through a series of measures that will take effect October 1, 2018, including the lifting of certain LNG navigation rules, our route will become even more efficient than ever before. The Panama Canal will also continue to bolster sustainability efforts, maintaining its commitment to lead environmental efforts in the maritime industry worldwide.

Indeed, there are many promising opportunities and milestones for the Canal in 2019, and we look forward to all that awaits. We remain steadfast in our commitment to bringing value to the maritime industry and the people of Panama.

If this past year is any indication of what 2019 has in store, we are confident that we are looking at another ground breaking year ahead.