



March 6, 2008

**OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-07-2008**

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

**SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – FEBRUARY 2008**

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force .....	274
b. Pilots in Training .....	18
c. Tugs .....	27
d. Locomotives .....	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	38.69	50	29
Oceangoing Transits	36.86	41	31
Canal Waters Time (hours)	29.79	51.51	16.03
In-Transit Time (hours)	11.57	14.83	8.92

<b>Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:</b>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' Beam	470	16.21	43.97
Vessels 91' Beam and Over	599	20.66	56.03
<b>Total of Oceangoing Transits:</b>	<b>1069</b>	<b>36.86</b>	
Vessels 100' Beam and Over	482	16.62	45.09
Vessels 900' Length and Over	131	4.52	12.25

**Note:** For the purpose of this report, the term "oceangoing transits" is equivalent to the number of locomotive transits.

<b>Booking Slots:</b>	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Large Vessels (beam 91' and over)	487*	461*	94.66%
Regular Vessels (beam < 91') #	261*	235*	90.04%

\*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

#Does not include additional x-pieces slots

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 March 31, 2008.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Manuel E. Benítez  
Executive Vice President of Operations

<b>TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE WORK – ONE YEAR</b>						
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Miraflores</b>	<b>Pedro Miguel</b>	<b>Gatun</b>	<b>Estimated Transit Capacity</b>	<b>Status</b>
August 18-25, 2008	8	Culvert Outage			28-32	Tentative
Sept. 18-27, 2008	10	Culvert Outage			28-32	Tentative
Nov. 17-24, 2008	8	Culvert Outage			28-32	Tentative

\* **Note:** Actual transit capacity will depend on the type of restriction imposed during work.

**Transit Capacity:** The normal capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 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 Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized. 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.

## CONTRACTING MOVING FORWARD FOR CANAL’S NEW LOCKS

### ACP MEETS WITH QUALIFIED BIDDERS FOR THE DESIGN AND BUILD OF THE NEW LOCKS

Continuing with the Expansion Program’s locks design and build contracting process, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) met the week of February 15, 2008 with the four consortia prequalified to bid for the contract. These meetings were held individually, and gave the opportunity for each consortium to raise questions and provide feedback to the ACP on the Request for Proposal (RFP), as well as an opportunity to visit the site where the Pacific and Atlantic locks will be built. The ACP will hold another meeting with consortia representatives in March 2008 with regard to RFP content. Bids are due in August 2008.

As the largest contract under the Canal’s \$5.25 billion Expansion Program, the winner of this tender will design and build the new set of locks and water-saving basins on both the Pacific and Atlantic ends of the Canal. The Expansion Program will build another lane for traffic along the Panama Canal through the construction of a new set of locks, which will allow for more traffic and wider ships. The prequalified consortia entitled to submit bids for this contract are: Consorcio C.A.N.A.L.; Consorcio Atlántico-Pacífico de Panamá; Consortia Bechtel, Taisei, Mitsubishi Corporation; and Consorcio Grupo Unidos por el Canal.

“The bidding process for the new locks contract progresses as expected and we are pleased to have received valuable feedback from the four consortia. We will now fully evaluate their comments and will make the adjustments to the RFP that we deem appropriate. We believe this important dialogue is essential to the success of this critical component of the Expansion Program,” said Executive Vice President of Engineering and Program Administration Jorge L. Quijano.