



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

3654-A (OPXI)  
V. 4-2-2015

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-24-2015**

August 7, 2015

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

**SUBJECT:** Draft restriction to 11.89 meters (39.0 feet) on September 8, 2015

As anticipated in Advisory A-21-2015, and based on the best information available at this time, a draft restriction due to the "El Niño" phenomenon being experienced at this time is hereby announced.

**Effective September 8, 2015, the maximum authorized transit draft for the Panama Canal is set at 11.89 meters (39.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) as follows:**

- Ships loaded prior to August 11, 2015, to a draft over 11.89 meters (39.0 feet) will be waived for transit, subject to safety considerations.
- Ships loaded on or after August 11, 2015, must comply with the restriction and may be required to trim or off-load cargo.

It is anticipated that the maximum authorized transit draft may be further restricted to 11.73 meters (38.5 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) on September 15, 2015, as follows:

- This draft projection is tentative and is furnished for planning purposes only. A final determination will be based on actual rainfall and lake level data and confirmed through an official OP Advisory to Shipping.
- Should the 11.73 meter (38.5 feet) restriction be implemented on September 15, 2015, ships loaded prior to August 18, 2015 will be waived for transit, subject to safety considerations.
- Ships loaded on and after August 18, 2015, must comply with the restriction and may be required to trim or off-load cargo;
- Implementation of the September 15<sup>th</sup> restriction will be announced with at least a four-week advance notice.

The **maximum authorized transit draft** is the deepest point of immersion in Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) permitted for a particular vessel in Gatun Lake. Water density of Gatun Lake is 0.9954 at 29.4° C (85° F). Vessels shall arrive in Canal waters with no list.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
Executive Vice President for Operations