



**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ**  
**VICE PRESIDENCY FOR TRANSIT BUSINESS**

3654 (NTXI)  
 V. 1-10-2018

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-35-2018**

October 8, 2018

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

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Canal Operations Summary – SEPTEMBER 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	33.00	48	21
Oceangoing Transits	33.07	37	27
Canal Waters Time (hours)	25.51	34.45	19.96
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.79	14.68	9.22
Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	208	6.93	20.97
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	555	18.50	55.95
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	229	7.63	23.08
Total:	992	33.07	100
Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and Over)	240	171	71.25
Large Vessels (91' beam to under 107' beam)	435*	293* <sup>1</sup>	67.36
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	234*	129* <sup>1</sup>	55.13
Regular Vessels (up to 300' in length)	1	1	100.00
Auctioned booking slots	3	0	0

\* 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 October 31, 2018.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
 Vice President  
 for Transit Business

OP, October 8, 2018

Subject: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – SEPTEMBER 2018

<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>
9-11 September 2018	2.5 days			East Lane**	22-24	2	Completed
19, 20 November 2018	5 hours per day	East Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
16, 17 January 2019	5 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
14, 21 February 2019	4 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	Tentative
15, 22 February 2019	5 hours per day	West Lane*			32-34	1	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 Transits Four LNG Vessels in One Day**

The Panama Canal reaches a new milestone on October 1, 2018 after the successful transit in a single day of four liquefied natural gas (LNG) ships with beams of up to 160 feet (49 meters) through the Neopanamax Locks. With this milestone, the Panama Canal breaks the record set on April 17, 2018, when three LNG vessels transited through the waterway on the same day.

*Ribera del Duero Knutsen* with a cargo capacity of 173,000 m<sup>3</sup> and *Maran Gas Pericles* with cargo capacity of 174,000 m<sup>3</sup> transited northbound, while *Torben Spirit* with a cargo capacity of 174,000 m<sup>3</sup> and *Oceanic Breeze* with a cargo capacity of 155,300 m<sup>3</sup> transited southbound, facilitating international trade between customers in South Korea, Japan, Chile and the US Gulf Coast.

As a result of experience acquired with the transit of more than 4,200 Neopanamax vessels, the Panama Canal introduced modifications to its Transit Reservation System in order to offer two slots per day to LNG vessels. These modifications have allowed the Panama Canal to optimize the Expanded Canal's capacity to meet specific demands.

The modifications that were announced on August 2018 and went into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>, also allow lifting certain daylight restrictions for LNG vessels, as well as meetings between LNG vessels in opposite directions in Gatun Lake.

"The transit of these four LNG ships in just one day demonstrates the Panama Canal's commitment to maximizing the efficiency, flexibility and reliability of its service to all customers," said Panama Canal Administrator Jorge L. Quijano.

With these modifications, the Panama Canal reinforces its capacity to handle the growing LNG transit demand arriving from the United States once the different export terminals begin operation.