

## Advisory To Shipping No. A-33-2023

July 7, 2023

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT :** Monthly Canal Operations Summary – June 2023

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force .....	282
b. Pilots in Training .....	6
c. Tugs .....	46
d. Locomotives .....	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Arrivals	33.10	49	20
Oceangoing Transits	32.13	36	29
Canal Waters Time (hours)	30.94	52.44	18.62
In-Transit Time (hours)	11.09	13.60	9.45

<b>Oceangoing Transits:</b>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	178	5.93	18.46
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	493	16.43	51.14
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	293	9.77	30.39
Total:	964	32.13	100.00

<b>Booking Slots:</b>	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	210*	213* <sup>1</sup>	101.43
Large Vessels (91' beam to under 107' beam)	390*	350* <sup>1</sup>	89.74
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	180*	127* <sup>1</sup>	70.56
Auctioned booking slots	136	96	70.59

\* 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 information of interest to the shipping community.

4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on July 31, 2023.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Boris Moreno Vásquez  
Vice President for Operations

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<b>SCHEDULE OF PANAMAX 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</b>	<b>Status</b>
June 8, 2023	5 hours		West*		29-31	1.a	Completed
June 9, 2023	6 hours		West*		28-30	1.a	Completed
June 12, 2023	8 hours		West*		26-28	1.a	Completed
June 19, 2023	4 hours		West*		30-32	1.a	Completed
June 20, 2023	6 hours			East*	28-30	1.a	Completed
June 26, 2023	12 hours			East*	23-25	1.a	Completed
June 27 to July 5, 2023	10 days			East***	22-24	1.a*	Completed
July 3 and 5, 2023	5 hours/day		West*		29-31	1.a	Completed
July 7, 2023	12 hours			East*	23-25	1.a	In Progress
July 12, 2023	7 hours			East*	28-30	1.a	Tentative
July 13, 2023	4 hours		West*		30-32	1.a	Tentative
July 14, 2023	4 hours	East*			30-32	1.a	Tentative
July 17 and 18, 2023	8 hours/day			West*	26-28	1.a	Tentative
July 19 and 21, 2023	5 hours/day		West*		29-31	1.a	Tentative
July 26 and 28, 2023	5 hours/day	West*			29-31	1.a	Tentative
July 31, 2023	6 hours			East*	28-30	1.a	Tentative
August 2 and 4, 2023	5 hours/day	West*			29-31	1.a	Tentative
August 8, 2023	4 hours		West*		30-32	1.a	Tentative
August 9, 2023	5 hours	East*			29-31	1.a	Tentative
August 10, 2023	7 hours			West*	28-30	1.a	Tentative
August 14, 2023	4 hours		West*		30-32	1.a	Tentative
August 15, 2023	4 hours	East*			30-32	1.a	Tentative
August 16, 2023	6 hours			West*	28-30	1.a	Tentative
August 20, 2023	12 hours			West*	23-25	1.a	Tentative
August 21, 2023	6 days			West***	23-25	1.a	Tentative
August 27, 2023	12 hours			West*	23-25	1.a	Tentative
August 29, 2023	8 days			West**	20-22	2	Tentative

<b>SCHEDULE OF NEOPANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES</b>						
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Agua Clara</b>	<b>Cocolí</b>	<b>Estimated Capacity</b>	<b>Expected Booking Condition</b>	<b>Status</b>
June 19, 2023	4 hours	*				Cancelled
June 20, 2023	5 hours	*				Cancelled
July 10, 2023	4 hours	*		10-11	1	Tentative
July 11, 2023	5 hours	*		9-10	1	Tentative

<sup>^</sup>The normal transit capacity of the Panamax locks is 34-36 vessels per day, and in the neopanamax locks 9-11 vessels per day, depending on vessel mix, transit restrictions, and other factors. The maximum sustainable capacity of the Panama Canal (panamax and neopanamax locks) is approximately 38-40 vessels per day. 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> May require an adjustment to the number of available booking slots

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## Panama Canal Commemorates Seventh Anniversary of the Neopanamax Locks



- *Anniversary comes with challenges on water and climate*
- *Over 20,600 vessels have transited the Neopanamax locks since their inauguration*

On June 26, 2016, thousands of people observed the beginning of a new era for the country with the inauguration of the Panama Canal expansion.

The new locks gave way to the transit of the container ship COSCO SHIPPING PANAMA, marking a before and after for the movement of cargo around the world, while the Canal fulfilled its mission to bring greater benefits to the country.

The Canal Expansion became the largest enhancement project undertaken since the Canal's original opening in 1914, allowing the waterway to provide shipping lines, retailers, manufacturers and consumers with greater shipping options, better maritime service, enhanced supply chain reliability and sustainability.

The expansion also opened the waterway to 90 percent of the global LNG fleet for the first time.

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in 2016, offering significant time savings for LNG producers in the United States and Latin America when exporting to the South America West Coast and Asia.

Additionally, it increased the route's emission savings for customers by allowing them to transport even greater amounts of cargo in less voyages, reducing time, fuel, and emissions significantly.

As a result, it has caused a ripple effect on the local and global economy, impacting shipping and trade, as ports worldwide expand to accommodate larger ships, and benefitting those across the supply chain in every region the Panama Canal serves.

Consistent with its commitment to its customers, until the first week of June, over 20,600 vessels have safely transited the Neopanamax locks since their inauguration in 2016.

### **Expansion figures**

The Neopanamax locks were initially expected to serve vessels with a maximum of 12,600 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs); however, the Panama Canal team quickly managed to exceed this threshold, thanks in part to the experience they gained operating the locks and their close collaboration with customers.

Their ability to support larger vessels such as the Zephyr, which has a total capacity of 16,285 TEUs, enabled the Neopanamax locks to accommodate 53 percent of the total Panama Canal tons that transited the waterway in FY2022.

The Neopanamax locks continue to account for more than 50 percent of the Canal's total tonnage, with more than 270 million Panama Canal tons (PC/UMS) between June 2022 and last May.

### **Connectivity**

Given its privileged and strategic geographic location, Panama and the Panama Canal offer unsurpassed advantages to the world's maritime commerce.

Ships from all parts of the world transit the Panama Canal daily, and 13 to 14 thousand vessels transit the Canal every year. The waterway serves more than 180 maritime routes, connecting 170 countries and reaching approximately 1,920 ports in the world.

Transiting the Panama Canal considerably reduces voyage time for vessels traveling from the U.S. Gulf Coast to markets in Asia.

Sailing from the US East Coast to Asia through the Expanded Canal takes 20 days, compared to 35.6 days for voyages through Cape Horn, 31.6 days through Cape of Good Hope, or 29.5 days if transiting through the Suez Canal.

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### **Green route**

The Canal's all-water route requires fewer cargo movements compared to freight transportation via air, truck, or rail. Given the shorter traveling distance and larger TEU capacity it offers, the Canal reduces fuel consumption and therefore emissions, having a positive impact on the reduction of global greenhouse gases compared to other routes.

The waterway is more than a shortcut. In addition to offering safe, reliable, and efficient service, the Panama Canal offers unmatched environmental advantages to its customers.

### **Water and climate challenges**

This seventh anniversary comes with important challenges on water and climate.

The Panama Canal is closely monitoring the development of weather events affecting water availability in the Canal watershed, which according to forecasts, could worsen with the arrival of the El Niño phenomenon.

Due to the extended drought, in advance, the Panama Canal informed its customers that based on the current and projected levels of our water reservoirs to enforce maximum authorized drafts in the Neopanamax and Panamax locks.

In response, the Canal is enforcing water saving measures during the rainy months to aid water recovery throughout the surrounding lakes and, thus, guarantee resources for human consumption without affecting transits. Although, current estimates indicate that the economic impact is unavoidable.