



Advisory To Shipping No. A-49-2023

November 8, 2023

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT : Monthly Canal Operations Summary – October 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	31.55	43	21
Oceangoing Transits	32.35	37	30
Canal Waters Time (hours)	53.72	100.23	30.96
In-Transit Time (hours)	12.27	16.05	10.20

Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	185	5.97	18.44
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	516	16.65	51.45
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	302	9.74	30.11
Total:	1003	32.35	100.00

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	217*	212* ¹	97.70
Large Vessels (91' beam to under 107' beam)	319*	298* ¹	93.42
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	130*	118* ¹	90.77
Auctioned booking slots	146	139	95.21

* Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

¹ 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 November 30, 2023.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations

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SCHEDULE OF PANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES							
Dates	Duration	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Capacity[^]	Expected Booking Condition	Status
October 23, 2023	7 hours	East*			26-28	3	Completed
October 24, 2023	5 hours	East*			29-31	3	Completed
October 25 and 26, 2023	7 hours/day	East*			26-28	3	Completed
November 14 and 15, 2023	7 hours/day	East*			17	5	Tentative
November 17, 2023	5 hours			East*	17	5	Tentative
November 22, 2023	5 hours	East*			17	5	Tentative
November 22, 2023	4 hours		West*		17	5	Tentative
November 23, 2023	7 hours			East*	17	5	Tentative
November 26, 2023	12 hours			East*	17	5	Tentative
November 27 to Dec 7, 2023	10 days			East***	17	5	Tentative
November 30 and Dec 1, 2023	7 hours/day	East*			17	5	Tentative
December 7, 2023	12 hours			East*	16	5	Tentative
December 18, 2023	5 hours			East*	16	5	Tentative
December 21 and 22, 2023	7 hours/day	East*			16	5	Tentative

SCHEDULE OF NEOPANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES						
Dates	Duration	Agua Clara	Cocolí	Estimated Capacity	Expected Booking Condition	Status
October 9, 2023	5 hours	*		9-10	N/A	Completed
October 10, 2023	5 hours	*		9-10	N/A	Completed
November 16, 2023	5 hours	*		7	5	Tentative
November 20, 2023	5 hours		*	7	5	Tentative
November 21, 2023	5 hours		*	7	5	Tentative

[^]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 vessels per day. This capacity is reduced during locks maintenance work, as indicated in the above table. The capacity may also be reduced based on the level of Gatun Lake. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting. When the Panama Canal's capacity is expected to be reduced, a corresponding adjustment to 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

[^] Panamax locks

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The driest month of October since 1950

The Panama Canal announces new operational measures with nearly 50 days remaining in the rainy season



This month of October is the driest on record within the past 73 years. The drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon continues to impact the Panama Canal's reservoir system and, as a result, water availability has been reduced.

What has happened? In 2023, there has been 41% less rainfall than usual, lowering Gatun Lake to unprecedented levels for this time of year.

Therefore, with less than two months left until the end of the rainy season, the Canal and the country face the challenge of the upcoming dry season with a minimum water reserve that must guarantee supply for more than 50% of the population and, at the same time, maintain the operations of the interoceanic waterway.

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New measures

Against this backdrop, the Panama Canal announces reservation slots available to maintain a competitive draft from November until February.

They are established as announced on [Advisory to Shipping No. A-48-2023](#):

Dates	Number of reservation slots
November 3 to 7	25
November 8 to 30	24
December 1 to 31	22
January 1 to 31, 2024	20
As of February 1, 2024	18

These measures are in addition to those previously adopted to preserve fresh water resources and to ensure the safety of transit operations, such as the use of water reutilization basins in the Neopanamax Locks and cross-filling in the Panamax Locks.

The Panama Canal urges its customers to make reservations in order to transit as programmed. In addition, information is provided in advance, as well as in real time, so that shipping companies can plan and make the best decisions.

Canal specialists remain vigilant of climate variability and rainfall patterns to implement actions to ensure that operations remain safe, efficient, and competitive for the benefit of Panama and world maritime commerce.

Please refer to the following **links** for more information:

- [Vessels in queue for transit](#)
- [Real-time Weather Radar Animation](#) (updated every 5 minutes)
- [Daily average level of Alhajuela reservoir for the last 12 months](#)
- [Daily average level of Gatun Reservoir for the last 12 months](#)
- [Daily precipitation \(rainfall\) by sub-basins \(Alhajuela/Gatun\) and cumulative in CHCP current year 2023](#)