



Advisory To Shipping No. A-14-2024

May 10, 2024

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT : Monthly Canal Operations Summary – April 2024

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| a. Transit Pilot Force | 291 |
| 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 | 26.7 | 39 | 18 |
| Oceangoing Transits | 26.3 | 29 | 23 |
| Canal Waters Time (hours) | 20.2 | 28.4 | 15.5 |
| In-Transit Time (hours) | 9.4 | 10.9 | 8.2 |

| Oceangoing Transits: | <u>Total</u> | <u>Daily Average</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Vessels of less than 91' beam | 149 | 5.0 | 18.9 |
| Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam | 418 | 13.9 | 53.0 |
| Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over) | 222 | 7.4 | 28.1 |
| Total: | 789 | 26.3 | 100.0 |

| Booking Slots: | <u>Available</u> | <u>Used</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Neopanamax (vessels of 107' beam and over) | 180* | 171* ¹ | 95.00 |
| Supers (vessels of 91' beam to under 107' beam) | 360* | 276* ¹ | 76.67 |
| Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam) | 120* | 104* ¹ | 86.67 |
| Auctioned booking slots | 252 | 205 | 81.35 |

* Does not include additional auctioned booking slots
¹ Includes booked transits only

- The following page provides the scheduled locks maintenance work and other information of interest to the shipping community.
- This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on May 31, 2024.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations

OP, May 10, 2024

Subject: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – April 2024

| SCHEDULE OF PANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Dates | Duration | Miraflores | Pedro Miguel | Gatun | Estimated Capacity[^] | Expected Booking Condition | Status |
| April 16 to 18, 2024 | 2 days-8 hrs | | | West** | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| April 18, 2024 | 7 hours | East* | | | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| April 19, 2024 | 7 hours | West* | | | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| April 22, 2024 | 4 hours | | West* | | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| April 23, 2024 | 6 hours | East* | | | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| April 24, 2024 | 8 hours | | | West* | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| April 25 and 26, 2024 | 10 hrs/day | | | West* | 20 | N/A | Completed |
| May 7 to 14, 2024 | 8 days | | | West** | 17 | N/A | In Progress |
| May 10, 2024 | 6 hours | | East* | | 17 | N/A | In Progress |
| May 15, 2024 | 4 hours | | West* | West* | 20 | N/A | Confirmed |
| May 16, 2024 | 4 hours | East* | | | 24 | N/A | Confirmed |
| May 20, 2024 | 7 hours | | | West* | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| May 21, 2024 | 4 hours | | West* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| May 22, 2024 | 4 hours | East* | | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| May 23 and 24, 2024 | 7 hours/day | West* | | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 4 and 5, 2024 | 5 hrs/day | | | West* | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 6, 2024 | 8 hours | | | West* | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 17 and 18, 2024 | 6 hrs/day | | East* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 20 and 21, 2024 | 7 hrs/day | West* | | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 25, 2024 | 8 hours | | | West* | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 26, 2024 | 4 hours | | West* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 27, 2024 | 4 hours | East* | | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| July 7, 2024 | 8 hours | | East* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| July 8, 2024 | 8 hours | | West* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| July 9 to 19, 2024 | 10 days | | *** | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| July 19, 2024 | 8 hours | | East* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |
| July 19, 2024 | 8 hours | | West* | | 24 | N/A | Tentative |

| SCHEDULE OF NEOPANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Dates | Duration | Agua Clara | Cocolí | Estimated Capacity | Expected Booking Condition | Status |
| May 28, 2024 | 5 hours | | * | 7 | N/A | Tentative |
| June 3, 2024 | 5 hours | * | | 7 | N/A | 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 36-38 vessels per day. This capacity is reduced during locks maintenance work, as indicated in the above tables. The capacity may also be adjusted depending on the level of Gatun Lake, for water conservation purposes. 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
[^] The estimated capacity is currently 17 transits per day in the Panamax locks and 7 transits per day in the Neopanamax locks due to the ongoing water conservation measures.

OP, May 10, 2024

Subject: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – April 2024

From Crisis to Opportunity: Rethinking Water Management in a Changing Climate



As climate change intensifies, I've noticed a notable increase in extreme weather events hampering critical shipping routes and waterways from the Rhine to the Mississippi. From prolonged droughts to unprecedented floods, these incidents are no longer a rare occurrence, but part of a longer-term and more severe pattern that will undoubtedly impact the maritime industry in the coming decades.

While World Water Day and Earth Day spurred awareness in recent weeks, the conversation must extend beyond these singular moments and confront the economic, social, and environmental ripple effects of these climate-driven disruptions. In truth, there is an urgent need to reassess our global approach to water management. I believe recent droughts affecting critical water arteries should serve as a wake-up call for accelerated action. Furthermore, the lessons gleaned from experiences so far ought to design our strategies moving forward.

OP, May 10, 2024

Subject: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – April 2024

Lessons from the Panama Canal

Take the Panama Canal, a vital global trade hub that is estimated to support more than US\$440 billion worth of cargo annually. Opened more than a century ago, it is a rare symbol of consistency and human ingenuity in an increasingly interconnected world. However, the Canal is no longer just a barometer for global commerce, but now an indicator of the mounting challenges posed by climate change.

Rainfall patterns have shifted and become more unpredictable in recent years, though we experienced a particularly severe drought during what should have been the rainy season last year. The cause was a combination of an intensifying [El Niño](#) climate cycle and record-breaking global warming driven by climate change. Faced with low water levels at the Canal's reservoirs, which are essential to its operations, we were forced to start restricting transits for the first time ever. This decision was crucial to guaranteeing a sustainable supply of freshwater for both human consumption and the uninterrupted functioning of transit operations during the impending dry season.

Although we've managed to steadily increase transit slots since then, with plans to [offer](#) 32 in June, this recent drought at the Canal not only highlights the vulnerability of our water systems but also underscores the urgent need for innovative and collaborative solutions. To tackle water scarcity challenges effectively, we've learned that we must adopt a multifaceted approach that encompasses technology, policy reforms, and community engagement.

Three Critical Elements Looking Ahead

Innovative engineering solutions are pivotal in mitigating the impacts of climate change on water resources. Technological advancements, from cloud seeding to smart irrigation systems, offer promising avenues for conserving and managing water more efficiently. However, diligent attention must be paid to water quality.

To address this concern, the Panama Canal recently opened a new [Water Quality Laboratory](#) that will use state-of-the-art technology to ensure careful monitoring and protection of the water supply as other solutions are implemented.

Moreover, policy reforms are essential to ensure sustainable water management practices. Governments must prioritize investments in water infrastructure and enact legislation that promotes water conservation and equitable distribution. By fostering collaboration between stakeholders and

OP, May 10, 2024

Subject: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – April 2024

incentivizing sustainable practices, policymakers can pave the way for a more resilient and secure water future.

Community engagement is equally critical in addressing water scarcity challenges. Local communities must play an active role in decision-making processes to foster trust and enact meaningful change. In the context of the Canal, the communities residing in the watershed are indispensable for our water conservation efforts. They contribute to preserving the environment where the water resource is located, ensuring its availability for local use, and sustaining the needs of 55% of the nation's population and operation of the waterway.

Investing in the New Climate Economy

We must recognize the interconnected nature of water management and prioritize solutions that promote sustainability, resilience, and equity. By adopting a holistic approach to water conservation, we can safeguard our precious water resources while ensuring the well-being of communities that depend on them.

While the Panama Canal has long focused on sustainability, the accelerating implications of climate change require stronger action. Our commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 reflects this urgency, signaling a fundamental transformation of our business towards a more sustainable future. Beginning this year, we will integrate sustainability into our capital investments totaling over \$8.5 billion over the next five years.

Funds will support the implementation of a robust water management system, in addition to infrastructure and equipment enhancements, new initiatives prioritizing sustainability, and digital transformation and decarbonization-focused improvements throughout the waterway. By ingraining sustainability into every aspect of our operations, we are confident in securing the long-term prosperity of both the Canal and our industry.

As we navigate the challenges of a changing climate, it's essential to view crises as opportunities for transformation. By rethinking our approach to water management, we can not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but also build a more sustainable and resilient future for generations to come. We hope others heed the lessons from the Panama Canal and work together to protect our waters and our communities. The time for action is now.

OP, May 10, 2024

Subject: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – April 2024



Author: Ilya Espino de Marotta, Deputy Administrator and Chief Sustainability Office, Panama Canal Authority

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 2024](#)
- [Advisory to Shipping](#)