



Panama Canal Authority
Vice Presidency for Operations

Advisory To Shipping No. A-21-2024

3654 (OP-I)
V. 29/03/2023

July 10, 2024

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT : Monthly Canal Operations Summary – June 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	29.4	39	17
Oceangoing Transits	29.0	33	22
Canal Waters Time (hours)	19.1	31.4	15.0
In-Transit Time (hours)	9.8	12.1	8.4

Oceangoing Transits:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	143	4.8	16.4
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	483	16.1	55.5
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	245	8.2	28.1
Total:	871	29.1	100.0

Booking Slots:

	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax (vessels of 107' beam and over)	210*	195* ¹	92.86
Supers (vessels of 91' beam to under 107' beam)	480*	362* ¹	75.42
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	150*	111* ¹	74.00
Auctioned booking slots	315	175	55.56

* 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 July 31, 2024.

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	Status
June 17 and 18, 2024	6 hrs/day		East*		24	N/A	Completed
June 20, 2024	8 hours			West*	24	N/A	Completed
June 20 and 21, 2024	7 hrs/day	West*			24	N/A	Completed
June 25, 2024	8 hours			West*	24	N/A	Completed
June 26, 2024	4 hours		West*		24	N/A	Completed
June 27, 2024	4 hours	East*			24	N/A	Completed
July 3, 2024	4 hours		East*		24	N/A	Completed
July 4, 2024	4 hours	East*			24	N/A	Completed
July 4, 2024	5 hours		West*		24	N/A	Completed
July 7, 2024	8 hours		East*		24	N/A	Confirmed
July 8, 2024	8 hours		West*		24	N/A	Confirmed
July 9 to 19, 2024	10 days		***		24	N/A	Confirmed
July 15 and 16, 2024	5	East*			24	N/A	Tentative
July 17 and 18, 2024	7	West*			24	N/A	Tentative
July 19, 2024	5 hours	West*			24	N/A	Tentative
July 19, 2024	8 hours		East*		24	N/A	Tentative
July 19, 2024 (after	8 hours		West*		24	N/A	Tentative
July 22, 2024	4 hours		West*		25	N/A	Tentative
July 23, 2024	4 hours	East*			25	N/A	Tentative
July 24, 2024	5 hours		West*		25	N/A	Tentative
July 25, 2024	4 hours	East*			25	N/A	Tentative
July 26, 2024	8 hours			West*	25	N/A	Tentative
August 3, 2024	2 days	East*			16	N/A	Tentative
August 15, 2024	4 hours		West*		25	N/A	Tentative
August 16, 2024	4 hours	East*			25	N/A	Tentative
August 19, 2024	8 hours			West*	25	N/A	Tentative
August 20, 2024	4 hours		West*		25	N/A	Tentative
August 21, 2024	4 hours	East*			25	N/A	Tentative
August 22, 2024	8 hours			East*	25	N/A	Tentative
August 31, 2024	12 hours			East*	25	N/A	Tentative
September 1, 2024	12 hours			West*	25	N/A	Tentative
September 2 to 13, 2024	12 days			***	25	N/A	Tentative
September 13, 2024	12 hours			East*	25	N/A	Tentative
September 14, 2024	12 hours			West*	25	N/A	Tentative

[^]The normal transit capacity of the Panamax locks is 34-36 vessels per day, and in the Neopanamax locks is 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. Due to the current situation with the water levels in Gatun and Alajuela Lakes, the daily capacity has been adjusted to 32 vessels (8 neopanamax, 18 supers and 6 regulars). This capacity is being increased and announced in Advisory to Shipping No. A-20-2024.

- * In order to perform scheduled maintenance works
- ** In order to perform scheduled dry chamber works
- *** Culvert outage

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Panama Canal Celebrates Eighth Expansion Anniversary with New Draft and Daily Transits Increases



- *Draft increases to 47 feet beginning June 26; and to 48 feet beginning July 11*
- *Beginning August 5, daily transits will increase to 35*

Panama City, June 26, 2024.- The Panama Canal celebrated the eighth anniversary of its expansion program today by announcing an increase to its draft and daily transits, all while continuing to manage the impact of climate variability and the challenge of securing water for the future.

Through an [Advisory to Shipping](#), the Panama Canal announced that the maximum authorized draft was raised today from 46 to 47 feet (14.33 meters), and will increase to 48 feet (14.063 meters) on July 11.

Additionally, a new booking slot for the Neopanamax locks will be added beginning on August 5, bringing the total number of transits to 35 ships per day.

Today's updates build on improvements announced earlier in June, which included an increase in daily transits from 32 to 33 beginning on July 11, and again to 34 on July 22. The Canal's continued progression is informed by the current and projected water levels of Gatun Lake, and the arrival of the rainy season in the Panama Canal watershed.

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Eight Years of Growth, Challenges and Progress

"This anniversary is distinct from previous ones since we have had to adapt our operations following the recent drought and the climatic variability affecting water levels at Lakes Gatun and Alajuela. In this critical period, we have prioritized the well-being of the population, guaranteeing the supply of drinking water and, on the other hand, ensuring the reliability of the service to our customers," said Panama Canal Administrator Ricaurte Vásquez Morales.

The [Expanded Canal](#) opened on June 26, 2016, with thousands on-site to witness the inaugural transit of the container ship *Cosco Shipping Panama* through the Agua Clara and Cocoli locks, marking the start of a new era for Panama and world commerce.

The Canal expansion was 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 Expanded Canal also opened the waterway to 90 percent of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels for the first time. Additionally, it increased the route's emission savings for customers by allowing a greater volume of cargo to be transported in fewer trips, reducing time and fuel significantly.

The expansion has also caused a ripple effect on the local and global economy, as countless ports worldwide received larger ships and expanded to accommodate the more than 25,000 vessels that have transited the Neopanamax locks since 2016. A total of 1,799 vessels transited the Expanded Canal between October 2023 and May 2024 alone. In this period, 1,123 (62.4 percent) were container ships.

Increased Capacity

Although the Neopanamax locks were initially expected to accommodate vessels with a maximum of 12,600 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), the Panama Canal soon surpassed this threshold, thanks to the experience gained by operating the locks and through close collaboration with customers.

The new locks have since allowed for the passage of much larger ships, including containerhips *CMA CGM ZEPHYR*, which has a capacity of 16,285 TEU's, and the *EVER MAX*, with a maximum capacity of 17,312 TEU's. The largest capacity vehicle carrier in the world, *HÖEGH TARGET*, and twin cruise ships *Norwegian Bliss* and *Norwegian Encore* have also completed record-breaking transits.

Connectivity

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

Ships from all over the world transit the original and expanded Neopanamax locks daily, with between 13,000 and 14,000 vessels passing through each year. The waterway serves more than 180 shipping

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routes, connecting 170 countries and approximately 1,920 ports around the world.

Transiting the Panama Canal considerably reduces voyage time for vessels traveling from the U.S. Gulf Coast to markets in Asia. Today, 71.5% of cargo transiting the Panama Canal originates or is destined for the United States.

The Water Challenge

The eighth anniversary of the Expanded Canal comes as the waterway continues to manage the impact of the prolonged dry season that last year limited its capacity for daily transits.

Despite the arrival of the rainy season, the challenge of water for Panama and the Panama Canal remains and serves as a reminder that climate change and its effects are a reality requiring immediate attention and concrete action.

Potential solutions include the identification of alternative sources of water from the 51 watersheds and lakes in Panama, along with projects that can increase storage capacity to ensure water availability for the entire Panamanian population and the Canal's operation, thereby ensuring its long-term sustainability.

At the same time, the Panama Canal is exploring additional short- and long-term solutions that can optimize the use and storage of water at the Canal for the benefit of both the local population and its own operations.

Panamanian Hands

All achievements have been made possible by the work and dedication of the more than 8,000 employees who make up the Panama Canal workforce. They continue to uphold their commitment to managing, preserving, and operating the waterway in a responsible, competitive, and sustainable manner, serving as a global benchmark for excellence in service and operation for the maritime industry.