



Panama Canal Authority
Vice Presidency for Operations

Advisory To Shipping No. A-38-2024

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

October 10, 2024

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT : Monthly Canal Operations Summary – September 2024

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	290
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	32.4	44	23
Oceangoing Transits	31.9	36	26
Canal Waters Time (hours)	20.2	31.3	14.4
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.8	14.3	8.6

Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	167	5.6	17.4
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	520	17.3	54.3
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	271	9.0	28.3
Total:	958	31.9	100.0

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax (vessels of 107' beam and over)	270*	218* ¹	80.74
Supers (vessels of 91' beam to under 107' beam)	570*	418* ¹	73.34
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	150*	127* ¹	84.67
Auctioned booking slots	283	174	61.49

* 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 October 31, 2024.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations

OP, October 10, 2024

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SCHEDULE OF PANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES							
Dates	Duration	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Capacity [^]	Expected Booking Condition	Status
September 10 to 25, 2024	15 days			***	26	N/A	Completed
September 16, 2024	6 hours		East*		26		Completed
September 18 and 19, 2024	7 hours/day	West*			26		Completed
September 25, 2024	12 hours			East*	26	N/A	Completed
September 26, 2024	12 hours			West*	26	N/A	Completed
September 30, 2024	8 hours			East*	26		Completed
October 1, 2024	4 hours		West*		26		Completed
October 2, 2024	4 hours	East*			26		Completed
October 3 and 4, 2024	7 hours/day	West*			26		Completed
October 7, 2024	8 hours			West*	26		Completed
October 9, 2024	3 hours		East*		26		Completed
October 10, 2024	4 hours	East*			26		Completed
October 16 and 17, 2024	7 hours/day	West*			26		Tentative
October 22, 2024	6 hours		East*		26		Tentative
October 23 and 24, 2024	6 hours/day		West*		26		Tentative
October 25, 2026	4 hours	East*			26		Tentative
October 26 to 28, 2024	2.5 days	West*			16		Tentative
November 14, 2024	6 hours		West*		26		Tentative
November 18 to 21, 2024	5 hours/day	East*			26		Tentative
November 26 and 27, 2024	7 hours/day	West*			26		Tentative
December 2 to 5, 2024	5 hours/day	West*			26		Tentative
December 16, 2024	4 hours		West*		26		Tentative
December 18 and 19, 2024	7 hours/day	West*			26		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 Alahuela Lakes, the daily capacity has been adjusted to 36 vessels (10 neopanamax, 20 supers and 6 regulars). This capacity is being increased and announced on Advisory to Shipping No. A-28-2024.

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

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Panama Canal Expects Over 225 Transits During the 2024-2025 Cruise Season



Panama City, Panama, October 7, 2024. - The Panama Canal's 2024-2025 cruise season began today, October 7, 2024, with the northbound passage of the passenger vessel Brilliance of the Seas, which is navigating a 15-day itinerary between Los Angeles and New Orleans.

This repositioning transit marks the start of more than 225 transits through the Panama Canal expected for this season.

According to Albano G. Aguilar, Specialist in Market Analysis and Forecasting at the Office of Corporate Affairs, "an increase in transits is expected this fiscal year due to the continued demand for vacation experiences, which still shows no signs of slowing down."

For 2025, global passenger demand is estimated at 6.9%, while the global cruise fleet will increase by 19 for a total of 460 vessels.

"Crossing from one ocean to the other through a fast and safe route like the Panama Canal is also a great attraction for the cruise industry, because of the wonder that our operation represents," said Panama Canal Administrator Ricaurte Vásquez Morales.

"Last year we served more than 200 cruise ship transits, with tourists from various parts of the world, who included the Canal transit as part of their travel itineraries.

We are very excited about the start of this cruise season and the experiences that thousands of tourists will have," added the Administrator.

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This season, as in previous years, major cruise lines such as Norwegian Cruise Line, Carnival Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean Cruises, among others, maintain their offering of itineraries for full and partial transits through the Panama Canal.

Smaller cruise ships such as Le Bellot, National Geographic Quest, Star Pride, Wind Star, Viking Mars, among others, are also expected to transit the canal.

During this period, fourteen cruise ships will transit the Panama Canal for the first time, including World Explorer, Sapphire Princess, Le Lyrial, Christina O, Silver Ray, Ocean Explorer, Crown Princess, Queen Anne, Spirit of Adventure, Viking Sea, SH Vega, Seabourn Encore, Grand Princess, and Nieuw Statendam.

Additionally, for this fiscal year, a total of 54 Neopanamax-size passenger ships are expected to transit the Panama Canal, including nine of the largest ships to ever traverse the waterway: the Norwegian Bliss, Joy, and Encore.

Furthermore, the inaugural transits of other Neopanamax-size ships are expected, including the Sapphire Princess, Crown Princess, Queen Anne, Grand Princess, and Nieuw Statendam.

It is worth noting that although some cruise lines modified or cancelled their itineraries, it is estimated that these transits will recover during the upcoming season, especially with the increase in Neopanamax-sized cruises.

During the 2022-2023 cruise season, the Panama Canal registered 210 Panamax and 41 Neopanamax cruise ships transits. For the 2023-2024 season through the month of July, 201 cruise transits have been recorded, 42 passenger ships of Neopanamax dimensions.

The Panama Canal cruise season runs from October to May each year.