



Panama Canal Authority  
 Vice Presidency for Operations  
**Advisory To Shipping No. A-03-2026**

March 10, 2026

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators Monthly

**SUBJECT :** Canal Operations Summary – FEBRUARY 2026

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force .....	296
b. Pilots in Training .....	10
c. Tugs .....	46
d. Locomotives .....	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Arrivals	36.7	46	26
Oceangoing Transits	35.0	38	32
Canal Waters Time (hours)	19.1	23.7	16.3
In-Transit Time (hours)	10.2	11.2	9.2

<b>Oceangoing Transits:</b>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	175	6.3	17.8
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	538	19.2	54.8
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	268	9.6	27.3
Total:	981	35.0	100

<b>Booking Slots:</b>	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax (vessels of 107' beam and Over)	138*	161* <sup>1</sup>	116.67
Supers (vessels of 91' beam to under 107' beam)	457*	437* <sup>1</sup>	95.62
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	105*	112* <sup>1</sup>	106.67
Auctioned booking slots			
* Does not include additional auctioned booking slots <sup>1</sup>	249	216	86.75
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 March 31, 2026.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**  
 Boris Moreno Vásquez  
 Vice President for Operations

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ADVISORIES ARE AVAILABLE AT <http://www.pancanal.com>  
FOR ETAS OR DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH OUR OFFICES,  
REFER TO NOTICE N-3-2023

<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</b>	<b>Status</b>
March 19, 2026	4 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
March 25 and 26, 2026	7 hours/day	East*			26	1	Tentative
April 7 to 9, 2026	3 days			East**	16	2	Tentative
April 13, 2026	5 hours		West*		26	1	Tentative
April 14, 2026	4 hours	East*			26	1	Tentative
April 15, 2026	8 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
April 20, 2026	4 hours		East*		26	1	Tentative
April 21, 2026	4 hours	East*			26	1	Tentative
April 22, 2026	8 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
April 29 and 30, 2026	7 hours/day	West*			26	1	Tentative
May 3, 2026	12 hours			West*	26	1	Tentative
May 4, 2026	12 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
May 5 to 17, 2026	12 days			***	26	1	Tentative
May 17, 2026	12 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
May 18, 2026	12 hours			West*	26	1	Tentative
May 19, 2026	8 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
May 20, 2026	4 hours		West*		26	1	Tentative
May 21, 2026	4 hours	East*			26	1	Tentative
May 25 and 26, 2026	5 hours/day			East*	26	1	Tentative
June 9 to 17, 2026	9 days			East**	16	2	Tentative
July 21 to August 1, 2026	11 days	West***			26	1	Tentative
August 20, 2026	1 day			West**	16	2	Tentative
August 25 and 26, 2026	5 hours/day			West*	26	1	Tentative
August 31 and Sept 2, 2026	5 hour/day		West*		26	1	Tentative
September 15 to 23, 2026	8 days		West**		16	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</b>	<b>Status</b>
March 30, 2026	4 hours		*			Tentative
March 31, 2026	6 hours		*			Tentative
April 6, 2026	4 hours	*				Tentative
April 7, 2026	6 hours	*				Tentative
April 23, 2026	6 hours	*				Tentative

<sup>^</sup>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.

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

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## The Panama Canal and The U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council Sign Memorandum of Understanding MOU to Enhance Global Trade of U.S. Agricultural Products Global



The Panama Canal and the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council (USGBC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to strengthen their collaboration through the enhancement of global trade with U.S. agricultural products. This landmark agreement highlights the commitment between both organizations to improve the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of grain shipments through one of the world's most vital trade routes.

Under the terms of the MOU, the Panama Canal and USGBC will collaborate on joint market efforts like economic analysis, as well as sharing trade and logistical data. Through this type of cooperation, the partnership will support an increasing international demand for U.S. grains while simultaneously promoting the operational excellence of the Panama Canal.

By strengthening ties with the USGBC, the Panama Canal reaffirms its pivotal role as a true partner in global commerce. "The signing of this important document is reflective of the longstanding friendship between Panama and the United States of America rooted in more than a century of cooperation, mutual respect, and shared strategic and economic interests," said the Panama Canal administrator, Dr. Ricaurte Vásquez Morales.

"We are proud to be a strategic ally of the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council as we work together to enhance the flow of trade through the Panama Canal. The memorandum of understanding is exemplary of our mutual pledge to promote sustainable trade and safeguard access to U.S. agricultural exports," Vásquez said.

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“For our industry, one of the most important reasons we are here is the Panama Canal. As reflected in the MOU, it means so much to U.S. agriculture. Throughout history, it has been known by many names — the Big Ditch, the Gold Coast of Trade, the Highway of the Americas — each underscoring its importance to global commerce and its deep historical and cultural significance,” said the President of USGBC Ryan LeGrand.

“We simply could not do what we do at the U.S. Grains and Bioproducts Council without it. For us the Canal is crucial, essential, and of paramount importance,” he added.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of the United States to Panama Kevin Marino Cabrera who served as an honorary witness. In his welcome remarks, the ambassador highlighted the excellent cooperative relationship between the U.S. and the Panama Canal by underscoring the strategic importance of this interoceanic waterway for bilateral and global trade.

The Panama Canal, a crucial link in the global supply chain, serves as a gateway for several million tons of U.S. agricultural exported annually. Grain traffic accounted for around 25.1 million metric tons in FY 2025 and is among the main products using the canal along with containers and energy products.

As part of their meeting in Panama a group of USGBC representatives are observing operations up close during a partial transit through the locks.

**About the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council:** The U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing markets, enabling trade, and improving lives. Through its worldwide presence, USGBC works to build global demand for U.S. grains, ethanol, and co-products.

**About the Panama Canal Authority:** The Panama Canal Authority is the autonomous agency responsible for the operation and management of the Panama Canal, a key waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Panama Canal is committed to providing safe, efficient, and sustainable service to global trade.