



Panama Canal Authority  
 Vice Presidency for Operations  
**Advisory To Shipping No. A-19-2026**

June 9, 2026

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

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

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	295
b. Pilots in Training	10
c. Tugs	49
d. Locomotives	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Arrivals	35.4	47	26
Oceangoing Transits	37.06	41	32
Canal Waters Time (hours)	31.20	61.68	17.26
In-Transit Time (hours)	11.06	12.76	8.75

**Oceangoing Transits:**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' beam	170	5.48	14.80
Vessels 91' beam to under 107' beam	658	21.23	57.27
Neopanamax Vessels (107' beam and over)	321	10.35	27.94
Total:	1149	37.06	100

**Booking Slots:**

	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Neopanamax (vessels of 107' beam and over)	173*	197* <sup>1</sup>	113.87
Supers (vessels of 91' beam to under 107' beam)	479*	502* <sup>1</sup>	104.80
Regular Vessels (less than 91' beam)	114*	119* <sup>1</sup>	104.38
Auctioned booking slots	361	283	78.39

\* Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

<sup>1</sup> 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 June 30, 2026.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Boris Moreno Vásquez  
 Vice President for Operations

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FOR ETAS OR DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH OUR OFFICES,  
REFER TO NOTICE N-3-2023

SCHEDULE OF PANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES							
Dates	Duration	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Capacity <sup>^</sup>	Expected Booking Condition	Status
May 5 to 17, 2026	12 days			***	26	1	Completed
May 17, 2026	12 hours			East*	26	1	Completed
May 18, 2026	12 hours			West*	26	1	Completed
May 19, 2026	8 hours			East*	26	1	Completed
May 20, 2026	4 hours		West*		26	1	Completed
May 21, 2026	4 hours	East*			26	1	Completed
May 22, 2026	8 hours	West*			26	1	Completed
May 25 and 26, 2026	5 hours/day			East*	26	1	Completed
May 27, 2026	8 hours			East*	26	1	Completed
June 9 to 17, 2026	9 days			East**	16	2	In Progress
June 9 to 11, 2026	12 hrs/day	West*			16	2	In Progress
June 12 to 13, 2026	2 days	East*			16	2	Confirmed
June 13 to 14, 2026	2 days	West*			16	2	Confirmed
July 7 and 8, 2026	5 hours/day			East*	26	1	Tentative
July 9, 2026	8 hours			East*	26	1	Tentative
July 14 and 16, 2026	5 hours/day	West*			26	1	Tentative
July 21, 2026	1 day			West**	16	2	Tentative
July 28 and 29, 2026	5 hours/day			West*	26	1	Tentative
August 4 and 5, 2026	5 hour/day	West*			26	1	Tentative
August 24, 2026	5 hours		West*		26	1	Tentative
August 25, 2026	5 hours	West*			26	1	Tentative
August 27, 2026	8 hours	West*			26	1	Tentative
September 1, 2026	8 hours	West*			26	1	Tentative
September 1 to 12, 2026	11 days	West***			26	1	Tentative
September 12, 2026	8 hours	West*			26	1	Tentative

SCHEDULE OF NEOPANAMAX LOCKS MAINTENANCE OUTAGES						
Dates	Duration	Agua Clara	Cocolí	Estimated Capacity	Expected Booking Condition	Status
August 6, 2026	5 hours		*	10	1	Tentative
September 21, 2026	5 hours	*		10	1	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 Responds to the Risk of El Niño with Foresight and Maintains Operational Stability**

Since late 2025, the Panama Canal has continuously monitored the El Niño scenario for the current year, which is why the water level at Gatun Lake has been maintained at historically high values. It is important to note that El Niño is part of the natural variability of the planet and may reoccur within a period ranging from two to seven years.



In light of the potential threat of an El Niño event in the second half of 2026, the Panama Canal began implementing water-saving measures at the locks in late 2025 and took advantage of the relatively dry season in 2026, which was among the wettest on record since 1950, to strengthen water reserves in Gatun and Alhajuela Lakes.

In practical terms, this means that the scenario is monitored with scientific rigor and operational prudence. The magnitude and severity of the phenomenon is assessed with greater precision at the start of the 2026 rainy season (May–June) which makes it possible to validate the climate models projected at the end of last year.

In the meantime, the Panama Canal updates lake-level projections every week, evaluating possible water-deficit scenarios for May and June 2026, while also maintaining 38 daily transits. Current data does not forecast the need for transit restrictions through December 31, 2026.

History indicates that the most pronounced impacts of moderate or strong El Niño events tend to be reflected more clearly in the subsequent year, as was the pattern in 1982–1983, 1997–1998, 2015–2016, and 2023–2024. Accordingly, operational projections for 2027 are already being developed.

#### **Water: An Essential Resource**

Water is an essential resource for life, for the well-being of communities, and for global trade.

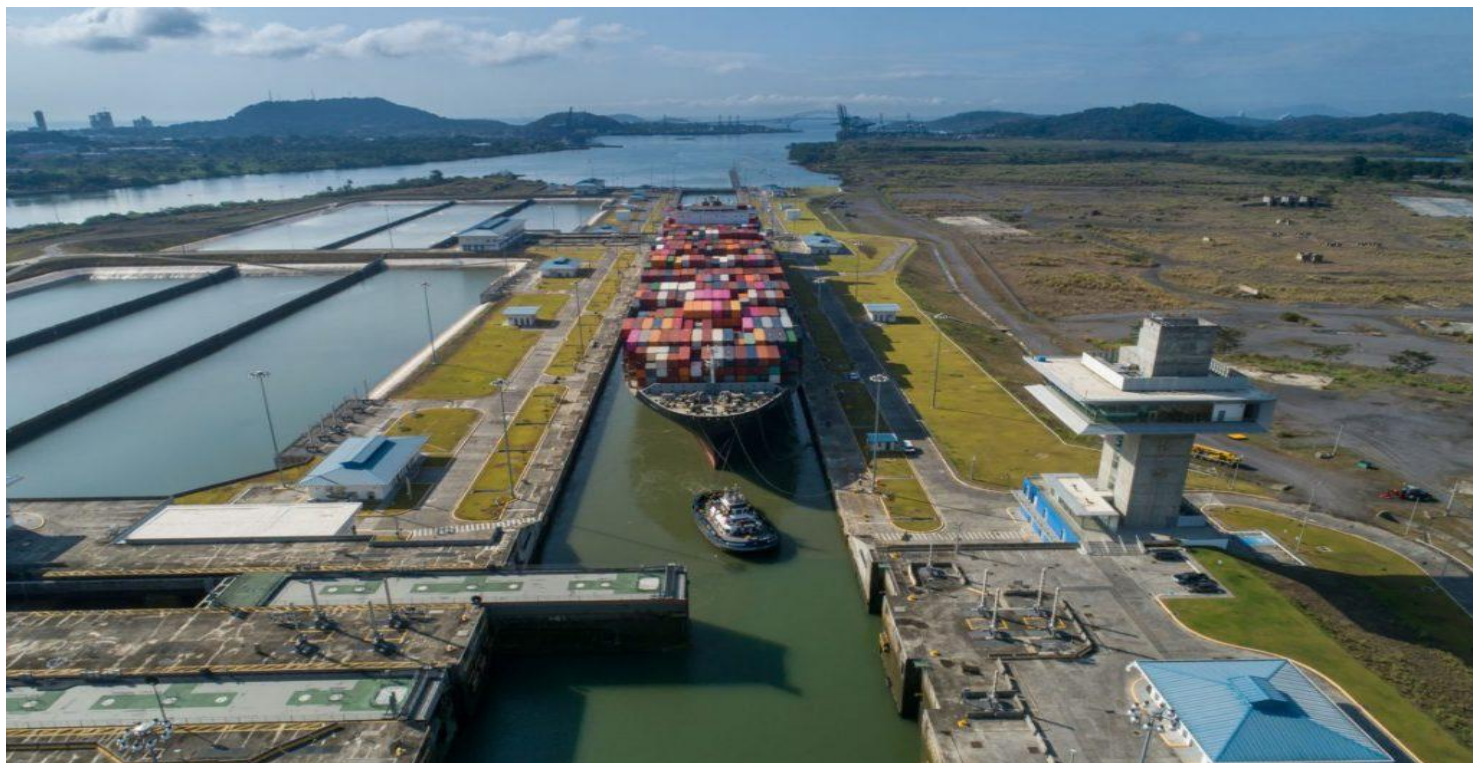
In Panama, the strategic value of water is even greater, as both the operations of the Panama Canal and the water supply for more than 50% of the country's population depend on this resource. This is why the Panama Canal plays a fundamental role as guarantor for responsible and sustainable management of water resources.

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In the context of greater climate variability, protecting water requires anticipation, optimizing its use to meet all objectives simultaneously, and applying measures that ensure its availability, thereby reaffirming the Canal's commitment to efficient, safe, and sustainable operations.

In this regard, the Canal maintains permanent oversight and prudent management of water, aimed at ensuring water security, operational efficiency, and the sustainability of the system.



### Preventive Water-Saving Measures

The Panama Canal has activated preventive water-saving measures, drawing on the experience gained during previous droughts, which made it possible to consolidate effective operational practices for water resource management. These actions are intended to anticipate scenarios in times of reduced water availability and to optimize use of water in operations.

With the onset of the dry season and in response to the evolution of hydrological conditions, the following operational measures were activated during the last week of December 2025:

- **Simultaneous lockages**, a process that allows two small ships to transit through a single lock at the same time, whenever vessel dimensions allow, to reduce the total volume of water used.
- **Use of water-saving basins at the Neopanamax locks** during vessel directional changes, saving one cubic hectometer of water daily.
- **Use of interior gates** which reduces the volume of water needed to fill the chambers, according to vessel length.
- **Temporary suspension of hydroelectric generation at Gatun**, prioritizes water storage for human consumption and canal operations.

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### **A Commitment to Sustainability and the Future**

While operational measures make it possible to optimize the use of available water and have proven effective in addressing periods of reduced water availability, the sustainability of the Panama Canal and the water supply for the population require long-term structural solutions. In this context, the Río Indio Project is a key component of the country's water security strategy.



This project will expand the water storage capacity of the Canal system, strengthen resilience in the face of more frequent and intense droughts and ensuring both reliable Canal operations and the supply of water for human consumption. Río Indio responds to a comprehensive vision of water resource management which is designed to anticipate the effects of climate change and protect a vital resource for Panama and global trade.

This approach, based on data, experience, and forward planning, reaffirms the Panama Canal's commitment to sustainability, operational resilience, and the responsible management of water as a strategic asset for the country and for the world.