



Advisory to Shipping No. A-29-2026

August 20, 2026

TO: All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Additional Measures to Address Reduced Precipitation in the Canal Watershed

Despite the arrival of the rainy season in the Isthmus of Panama and the water-saving measures implemented by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) in recent months to mitigate the adverse effects of the El Niño event, current watershed conditions continue to warrant additional preventive measures to support the long-term sustainability of Canal operations.

During the current hydrological year (May through August), cumulative rainfall across the Canal watershed has been 34% below the historical average, while watershed inflows have been 44% below their historical average for the same period, reflecting a substantially reduced hydrologic response despite the onset of the rainy season. Furthermore, forecasts indicate that the anticipated severity of the 2026-2027 El Niño event could further reduce precipitation and runoff during the remainder of the wet season.

The combination of these observed deficits and the forecast of a potentially severe 2026-2027 El Niño event raises concerns regarding water availability during the upcoming 2027 dry season (January to April). These conditions require vigilant monitoring and prudent water resource management to always ensure the reliable and sustainable operation of the Canal. Particularly during the 2023-2024 El Niño event, the Canal maintained full open and timely communications with agents, owners and operators on the existing hydrological conditions of the waterway, a practice that we maintain at all times regardless of its criticality, as these hydrological conditions, is an essential aspect of our mutual interest.

The measures described below are therefore being implemented to preserve service reliability, safeguard water resources for human consumption, and provide customers with timely and transparent information to support voyage planning and supply chain decisions.

Effective August 21, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 4, 2026, the number of daily slots available at the Neopanamax Locks will be adjusted to nine (9). Accordingly, only one (1) slot will be offered during Booking Period 2. Additionally, the number of daily slots available at the Panamax Locks will be adjusted to twenty-five (25). Accordingly, only one (1) slot will be offered to Regular vessels during Booking Period 2. Due to the reduction in available transit slots during Booking Period 2, Conditioned slot in the Neopanamax category will not be available.

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The following table summarizes daily slot availability by vessel category:

Effective August 21, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 4, 2026

Vessel Category	Special Period 730 - 366 days	LoTSA >90 days	Period 1 90 - 31 days	Period 1A 30 - 15 days	Period 2 14 - 8 days	Subtotal	Period 3 Auctions 7 - 2 days	TOTAL
Neopanamax	1	3	*	3	1	8	1	9
Supers	3		6		10	19	1	20
Regulars	2		1		1	4	1	5
Total	6	3	7	3	12	31	3	34

Moreover, effective September 1, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 15, 2026, the number of daily slots available at the Panamax Locks will be adjusted to twenty-three (23). Accordingly, eight (8) slots will be offered to Super vessels during Booking Period 2. During this condition, no more than nine (9) supers may be booked for transit per direction.

The following table summarizes daily slot availability by vessel category:

Effective September 1, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 15, 2026

Vessel Category	Special Period 730 - 366 days	LoTSA >90 days	Period 1 90 - 31 days	Period 1A 30 - 15 days	Period 2 14 - 8 days	Subtotal	Period 3 Auctions 7 - 2 days	TOTAL
Neopanamax	1	3	*	3	1	8	1	9
Supers	3		6		8	17	1	18
Regulars	2		1		1	4	1	5
Total	6	3	7	3	10	29	3	32

As per our booking and reservation regulations, in effect since November 24, 2023, and currently in effect, customers must use the booking and reservation options through the Transit Reservation (Booking) system, to reduce the possibility of extended delays, as a confirmed reservation is the only mechanism that guarantees transit date.

Additionally, based on the current level of Gatun Lake and the latest weather projections, the ACP will postpone until September 2, 2026, the maximum authorized draft of 14.63 meters (48.0 feet) TFW in the Neopanamax Locks, scheduled to become effective on August 26, 2026. Furthermore, the maximum authorized draft adjustment of 14.48 meters (47.5 feet) TFW, scheduled to become effective on September 3, 2026, will be postponed until October 1, 2026.

The ACP will closely monitor weather conditions, watershed inflows, and lake levels. Should additional operational adjustments become necessary, the ACP will timely update customers, addressing draft conditions, capacity levels and any other modification in existing rules and procedures, to assure

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reliability and provide information to support business decisions. As every event is unique and climate conditions could change more rapidly than anticipated, ACP will continue to strive to announce any future adjustments as far in advance as circumstances allow.

For inquiries regarding these measures, please contact: operationservices@pancanal.com

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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