



AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

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TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Possible draft restrictions due to "El Niño" Phenomenon

Despite numerous water conservation measures implemented throughout 2015, the "El Niño" phenomenon brought an unusually dry rainy season to the Canal watershed, impeding Gatun and Alajuela Lakes from reaching their optimum levels prior to the beginning of the 2016 dry season period.

The 2015 Canal Watershed Runoff recorded the second worst in a history of 103 years of systematic hydrological information. Rainfall during 2015 was 36 percent below average and during the last twenty nine months, twenty six of those recorded precipitations below normal. Gatun Lake's level is currently at 81.75 feet, the lowest on record for this time of the year.

Based on weather forecasts and water consumption estimates for the upcoming months, the Panama Canal is anticipating the possibility that sometime during April 2016 draft restrictions may be imposed to transiting vessels.

The above information is provided for planning purposes only, and any actions taken that may affect transit operations will be announced in a timely manner.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Esteban G. Sáenz
Executive Vice President for Operations