



November 19, 2015

Laufer Customer Advisory: Panama Canal Congestion Update

To Our Valued Customers:

Over the past several weeks, the Panama Canal has been experiencing high vessel backlog attributed to several factors: increased arrivals of large and deep draft vessels, water conservation measure and low Gatun Lake levels, and fog at the Canal.

The Panama Canal has implemented several measures to reduce the number of vessels awaiting transit. Despite all of these measures, however, the in-transit time, the number of vessels awaiting transit and the waiting time for many of these vessels, have not been reduced to acceptable levels.

Carriers have been communicating revised schedules due to these delays.

"We are working hard to improve the situation, deploying new resources and innovative solutions. We are making slow and steady progress," said the Panama Canal Authority. (Source: *American Shipper*)

Laufer Group International will continue to monitor this situation and provide you with updates as they become available. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact your local Laufer representative.

We thank you for your continued support.

Laufer Group International, Ltd.