



CIRCULAR FOR P&I CLUBS

23 JULY 2020

GLOBALPANDI, S.A.
P&I CORRESPONDENTS

NAVIGATION CONDITIONS AT THE ORINOCO RIVER

As an update for our most recent Circular on this matter dated 17 April 2020, the Orinoco River has substantially recovered its level in June but it is still 2.5 meters below the historical average level for the same date.

"Profiling a very dry year, the largest river and main inland waterway in Venezuela is between 172 and 250 centimeters below its average level at the beginning of the last week of June...."

As reported earlier this year the draught issues led shippers and authorities to set up the whole loading operation downstream at mile 44, where cargo was conveyed by barges, now the recovering in water level has allowed the local maritime authority to restore loading operations back to normal at upriver terminals like Palua and Ferrominera.

Profiling a very dry year, the largest river and main inland waterway in Venezuela is between 172 and 250 centimeters below its average level at the beginning of the last week of June. This due to the few rains of the year that led to record lows in the period between March and May. The June rains, although also lower

than usual, improved Orinoco levels but still below expectations and very far from the floods reported in 2018. This according to monitoring published by the Department of Hydrometeorological Engineering of the Central University of Venezuela.

According to the most recent regular bulletin issued on 5 July 2020 by the Harbor Master of Ciudad Guayana, (Port Captaincy) the maximum allowed draught for vessels currently transiting the Orinoco River stands as follows:

External Draught: 26.7
Internal Draught: 31.4

The Orinoco River is now coming out its dry season that goes from November through March or April but with lower figures vessel grounding is always a risk.

The best approach is to recognize the condition of the river, stay alert at all times - even when the pilot is on board - and know the special demands of river navigation.

We strongly advise ships transiting the River to keep close contact with their agents and the Club's Correspondents and being guided by the official information about the river's depths and the maximum drafts allowed.

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P&I CORRESPONDENTS

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