

CANALS AND WATERWAYS

The history of canals and their importance in shipping



NAMEPA's Mission

- Preserve and **protect** the marine environment
- Demonstrate **maritime commitment** to environmental protection and pollution prevention
- Support the **marine industry**
- Engage maritime businesses, government and public to **"Save our Seas"** by promoting sound environmental practices
- **Educate** on importance of protecting marine resources



Canals have been around since the 6th century BC and were an essential component to society in ancient Mesopotamia, allowing the Mesopotamian civilization to link and control the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.



The first large-scale canal that was used specifically for water transport was spearheaded by Persian Emperor Daruis I and linked the Nile River to the Red Sea. This created a perfect terminus for the initial construction of the **Suez Canal** by the Egyptians in 1874 BC.



Another canal that drastically impacted the shipping industry was the Panama Canal. Since completion, the Panama Canal has allowed ships to maneuver across Panama instead of traveling the 12,000 miles around Cape Horn in South America.



Each ship must pay a toll to use the canal, which has generated a significant amount of revenue for Panama, a net income of over 1 billion dollars annually according to the Panama Canal Authority.



Canals are vital to the development of the global economy as they have substantially lessened voyage distance and time and thus has allowed the export and import of goods to become less expensive and for goods to reach their destinations more quickly.



SECTION HEADER

Subtitle



