Sulina Monitor

Inbound and outbound queue at the Sulina Channel, lower Danube

SAMPLE ISSUE

Week 43, 19 Oct – 25 Oct 2026

Data as of 25 Oct

60 vessels are waiting at the Sulina roads (▼ 8 vs last week), with a median of 29 days. 23 entered the canal this week against 12 the week before; inbound pilotage stopped on 19 Oct. 28 vessels wait to leave, mostly with grain.

60
vessels at Sulina roads
▼ 8 vs last week
132 in the inbound lists in all

29 days
median wait at the roads
▲ 6 d vs last week
47 vessels waiting 14+ days

23
vessels entered the canal
▲ 11 vs last week
8.3 a day in the pilotage plan; no pilotage on 19 Oct

28
vessels in the exit queue
▼ 6 vs last week
median 6 days in the queue

28 days
canal entry to exit
last 4 weeks, 36 calls, middle half 23–34 days

SIX WEEKS

	W38 14 Sep	W39 21 Sep	W40 28 Sep	W41 5 Oct	W42 12 Oct	W43 19 Oct	vs last week	trend
At the roads, end of week	75	62	72	74	68	60	▼ 8	
In the inbound lists, end of week	125	111	133	150	132	132	=	
Median days at the roads	9	13	18	19	23	29	▲ 6	
Waiting 14+ days	26	28	49	48	43	47	▲ 4	
Vessels in the daily pilotage plan	5.1	10	3	7.6	4.4	8.3	▲ 3.9	
Days without inbound pilotage	3	0	4	1	4	1	▼ 3	
Vessels that entered the canal	18	27	9	36	12	23	▲ 11	
Exits seen	8	57	8	50	27	26	▼ 1	
Vessels in the exit queue	28	34	66	29	34	28	▼ 6	
Median days in the exit queue	2	4	7	4	5	6	▲ 1	
Cargo aboard, inbound (t)	151 400	157 350	189 553	245 117	311 697	311 973	▲ 276	
Cargo aboard, outbound (t)	117 040	136 456	313 141	146 006	156 126	131 396	▼ 24730	
Median age of vessels entering (years)	24.5	21	30	28.5	24.5	19	▼ 5.5	
Entering vessels 30+ years old	22%	41%	56%	47%	33%	17%	▼ 16	

Sulina Monitor

Inbound and outbound queue at the Sulina Channel, lower Danube

SAMPLE ISSUE
Week 43, 19 Oct – 25 Oct 2026
Data as of 25 Oct

WHERE VESSELS WENT

Destination	Country	Share of entries 28 Sep – 25 Oct
Galați	Romania	38%
Giurgiulești	Moldova	19%
Izmail	Ukraine	19%
Brăila	Romania	16%
Reni	Ukraine	5%
Tulcea	Romania	4%

IN THE PILOTAGE PLAN, AND ENTERED

Destination	W42 in plan	W42 entered	W43 in plan	W43 entered
Ukraine	11	3	14	5
Romania	9	8	11	11
Moldova	2	1	8	7

WEATHER AT THE SULINA BAR

- 19 Oct: no inbound pilotage; gusts 47 km/h, waves 1.0 m

Outlook as of 25 Oct

- 26 Oct: gusts 16 km/h, waves 0.3 m — pilotage likely
- 27 Oct: gusts 48 km/h, waves 1.0 m — at risk
- 28 Oct: gusts 47 km/h, waves 1.1 m — at risk

WHAT THE INBOUND QUEUE CARRIES

Cargo type	Share of tonnes
dry bulk	58%
general (steel, building materials)	32%
liquid	11%

WHAT WAITS TO LEAVE

Cargo type	Share of tonnes
grain	80%
liquid	19%
general (steel, building materials)	1%

READING THE WEEK

- **Time per call** has two parts: the wait at the Sulina roads (median 29 days now) and the time from canal entry to exit, most of it in a Ukrainian Danube port (median 28 days over four weeks).
- **A place in the pilotage plan is not entry** for Ukraine-bound vessels: in W43 14 of them were in the plan and 5 entered; for Romanian and Moldovan destinations it was 18 of 19. A Ukraine-bound vessel often stays in the plan for several days and then drops out of it again.
- **Accumulation:** 60 vessels at the roads, 132 in the inbound lists and 28 waiting to leave.
- **Pilotage** stopped on 10 days in four weeks; on 9 of them gusts at the bar reached 40 km/h or waves 1.25 m. On working days the plan holds as many vessels as there are pilots assigned, usually 10.

Method. Aggregates only, published after the week ends: no vessel names, no positions or current counts for Ukrainian ports, no movement times. A vessel counts as having entered the canal when the daily pilotage plan names her and the next plan no longer does; the entry falls inside that plan's 24-hour window. Days at the roads run from the reported arrival date, which is available for vessels bound for Ukrainian ports. Cargo is grouped by broad type. Weather: archive and forecast at the bar, read against the pilotage limits.

Sulina Monitor · [publisher name to be added]