



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

December 1, 2005

First Vessel In For The Year

U.S.-Flag Lakes Fleet Totals 57 Vessels on December 1

Cleveland---The active U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet totaled 57 vessels on December 1, a decrease of two hulls compared to a year ago. The decrease is the result of the 1,000-footer EDWIN H. GOTT being in the shipyard for repairs and the lay-up of the cement carrier PAUL H. TOWNSEND.

Compared to the month's 5-year average, the fleet is down by one hull, but a tank barge is expected to return to service in the next few days.

U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Vessel Utilization Rates **December 1, 2000-2005 and 5-Year Average**

Year	Dry-Bulk Carriers	Cement Carriers	Tankers	Total
2000	50	5	5	60
2001	45	4	4	53
2002	49	5	4	58
2003	46	5	5	56
2004	49	5	5	59
2005	48	5	4	57
Average 2000-2004	48	5	5	58

Lake Carriers' Association represents 12 American corporations that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year.

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The above information is based on data from knowledgeable sources. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Lake Carriers' Association assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of Lake Carriers' Association and may not necessarily represent the views of its individual members.

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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.
GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC.
THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY
SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.