



The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes

Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Highest Total Since 2000

Lakes Ore Trade Tops 61.7 Million Net Tons In 2004

CLEVELAND--Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 61,752,452 net tons in 2004, an increase of 11.6 percent compared to 2003, and the trade's highest total since 2000.

U.S. ports accounted for the gain. Loadings increased 16 percent to 52.4 million net tons compared to 2003. However, it must be noted the 2003 total was the lowest in a number of years. Compared to the trade's 5-year average, 2004 loadings represent an increase of 3.3 percent.

Shipments from Canadian ports in the St. Lawrence Seaway destined for Great Lakes steel mills fell 8 percent from 2003. Labor issues in the fall played a major role in the decrease. Compared to the trade's 5-year average, loadings were down 2 percent.

The rebound in iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes reflects the state of the steel industry. U.S. steel mills shipped 112.1 million net tons in 2004, an increase of 5.8 percent compared to 2003.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 15 American corporations that operate 57 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. For more information, visit LCA's Web site - www.lcaships.com - or contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications:

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

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