



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Shipments to Canada from Lake Erie Ports Strong **Great Lakes Coal Trade Up 27 Percent in March**

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes in March totaled 1.6 million net tons, an increase of 27 percent compared to a year ago. The trade outperformed its 5-year average for March by 34 percent. Strong demand for coal loaded at Lake Erie ports destined for Canadian customers spurred the surge.

Despite the increase, lightloading was rampant again. The largest coal cargo loaded in March totaled only 58,944 net tons. The cargo was carried by a 1,000-foot-long ship and vessels this size have carried nearly 71,000 tons in a single trip when high water levels offset lack of adequate dredging. With the dredging crisis still gripping Great Lakes shipping, it is all the more important that Congress reject the Administration's proposed \$49 million cut in dredging funds in FY09.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 16 American corporations that operate 63 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 can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways. More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

Source: Lake Carriers' Association

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