



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

April 15, 2010

### Lakes Coal Trade Picks Up Steam in March

CLEVELAND—The pace of coal shipments on the Great Lakes in March point to a strengthening economy. Coal loadings at U.S. and Canadian ports approached 500,000 tons, more than triple the volume moved a year ago.

Loadings at Superior, Wisconsin, quadrupled their level of a year ago. Shipments from Toledo, Ohio, were triple that of a year ago. Sandusky, Ohio, loaded no coal in March 2009, but shipped almost 150,000 tons this March.

Comparisons with previous years make clear the recession is not over. However, it is reported that coal shipments on most major railroads are below a year ago, so the marine mode is outperforming a land-based mode of transportation.

As is typical, no coal was loaded in February, but through the first quarter, the Lakes coal trade stands at 1.1 million tons, an increase of 19.6 percent compared to a year ago. The trade is down 57.7 percent when compared to the 5-year average for the January-March timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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 per year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications (440-333-9996).

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Information 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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**Suite 720 ♦ 20325 Center Ridge Rd. ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦ [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)**

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

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