



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Record Year for Dock Pulls Coal Trade Up for 2008

CLEVELAND—The Great Lakes coal trade totaled 39.8 million net tons in 2008, a slight increase – 1.3 percent – compared to a year ago. The trade was, however, down nearly one million tons from its 5-year average. The dredging crisis was a major factor in the trade's inability to keep pace with its long-term average. Even when water levels peaked in July and a few cargos topped 67,000 tons, the largest vessels were still forfeiting 4,000 tons of coal each trip.

Superior Midwest Energy Terminal in Superior, Wisconsin, set a new record for shipments in a calendar year: 22,354,161 net tons. That total surpassed the dock's previous record by one million tons.

Thunder Bay, Ontario, also saw a noticeable increase in its coal shipments. Loadings totaled 1.7 million net tons, an increase of 22.4 percent compared to 2007.

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

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