



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

February 26, 2007

### Lack of Draft Slashes January Coal Trade

CLEVELAND—With Great Lakes vessels' draft severely limited by plummeting water levels and inadequate dredging, coal shipments fell dramatically in January. Shipments totaled only 1.3 million net tons, a decrease of 35 percent compared to a year ago. The January coal float also was almost 10 percent behind the month's 5-year average.

Light loading was most severe on Lake Superior. With the Lake's water level hovering near the record low set more than eight decades ago, the largest coal cargo totaled only 62,437 net tons. During periods of high water, coal loads on Lake Superior have approached 71,000 tons. Therefore, January's largest coal cargo only represented 88 percent of the vessel's carrying capacity.

**Great Lakes Coal Shipments: January 2002-2007 and 5-Year Average**  
(net tons)

Port	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
Superior	58,948	107,917	442,141	465,598	687,977	532,042	352,516
Thunder Bay	0	0	85,722	45,319	25,100	0	31,228
<b>Total - Lake Superior</b>	<b>58,948</b>	<b>107,917</b>	<b>527,863</b>	<b>510,917</b>	<b>713,077</b>	<b>532,042</b>	<b>383,744</b>
Chicago	103,852	74,184	182,194	241,255	289,810	121,214	178,259
<b>Total - Lake Michigan</b>	<b>103,852</b>	<b>74,184</b>	<b>182,194</b>	<b>241,255</b>	<b>289,810</b>	<b>121,214</b>	<b>178,259</b>
Toledo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandusky	0	0	27,420	111,133	115,235	0	50,758
Ashtabula	525,957	222,345	379,999	215,882	382,671	144,245	345,371
Conneaut	610,286	298,720	357,576	507,550	442,939	471,898	443,414
<b>Total - Lake Erie</b>	<b>1,136,243</b>	<b>521,065</b>	<b>764,995</b>	<b>834,565</b>	<b>940,845</b>	<b>616,143</b>	<b>839,543</b>
<b>Total - All Lakes</b>	<b>1,299,043</b>	<b>703,166</b>	<b>1,475,052</b>	<b>1,586,737</b>	<b>1,943,732</b>	<b>1,269,399</b>	<b>1,401,546</b>

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 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 as much as 125 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](http://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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