



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

April 20, 2006

Even So, Total Could Have Higher But For Lack Of Dredging

### **Coal Shipments Rise On The Great Lakes In March**

Cleveland---Shipments of coal on the Great Lakes totaled 1.7 million tons in March, a significant increase, 42 percent, compared to a year ago. The trade outperformed the month's 5-year average by an even greater margin: 64 percent.

However, the total would have been higher if Great Lakes ports and waterways were dredged to their project depth. The largest coal cargo loaded in March totaled 62,084 tons, but the record for the Lakes is nearly 71,000 tons. Loadings are right now somewhat constrained by the fact that water levels on the Lakes are just beginning their seasonal rise, but decades of inadequate dredging are limiting vessels' ability to carry full loads even when the Lakes peak.

The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, a labor/management coalition promoting Great Lakes shipping, is launching an effort to increase Federal funds available for dredging ports and waterways. It is estimated that it will cost more than \$200 million to restore the navigation system.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 3.7 million tons, again a significant increase over the same point in 2005 and the 5-year average for the January-March timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 14 American corporations that operate 55 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 at least partially offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways.

For more information on this report or Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications: Tel: (216) 861-0592 / Fax: (216) 241-8262 / E-Mail: info@lcaships.com.

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*The above information is 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***

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.  
GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • INTEGRATED SHIPPING, LLC  
THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC. • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY  
PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY • SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.