



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Full Loads Could Have Reduced Deficit **Great Lakes Coal Trade Sluggish in April**

CLEVELAND—Shipments of coal on the Great Lakes in April totaled 3.8 million net tons, a decrease of 5 percent compared both to a year ago and the month's 5-year average. A dock that ships low-sulfur coal registered a 7.4-percent increase over a year ago, but loadings of eastern coal at Lake Erie ports fell more than 18 percent. One factor in the decline is a major customer has switched to western coal. Also, one of the Lake Erie coal docks did experience some outages during April.

The dredging crisis again played a role in the total. Only two coal cargos in April topped 62,000 net tons. When high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging in 1997, a 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker was able to deliver nearly 71,000 net tons in one trip.

The 1,000-footers were not the only vessels to see their payloads reduced. An 806-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker that hauled coal from a Lake Erie port to a Canadian customer in April carried 18,946 net tons. The vessel made the same voyage almost to the day one year ago, but on that occasion, its cargo totaled 19,730 net tons. In other words, the dredging crisis and falling water levels have trimmed the vessel's carrying capacity by 4 percent in one year.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 6.3 million net tons, a decrease of 18.5 percent compared to the same point in 2006. Compared to the 5-year average, shipments are down by 175,000 tons.

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.

Source: Lake Carriers' Association

Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications (216) 861-0592

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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.

Suite 915 • 614 West Superior Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383 • Fax: 216-241-8262 • Web site: www.lcaships.com

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

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