



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

July 11, 2008

### **Surge in Western Coal Offsets Drop at Lake Erie Ports And Keeps Great Lakes Coal Trade Steady in June**

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 4,284,810 net tons in June, a virtual tie with a year ago, but 3.8 percent below the month's 5-year average. Although the June total was essentially unchanged from a year ago, shipments of western coal from Lake Superior ports rose 21 percent, while loadings of eastern coal at Lake Erie ports fell 25 percent.

The 2.5 million tons loaded at Superior, Wisconsin, represent one of the strongest months ever for Superior Midwest Energy Terminal. However, the dredging crisis still deflated the total. The largest coal cargo shipped on the Lakes in June, 66,066 tons out of Superior Midwest Energy Terminal, was still nearly 5,000 tons below the record cargo for the Head-of-the-Lakes trade set in 1997, a period of high water that offset the lack of adequate dredging.

Overseas exports figured into the month's total. Thunder Bay, Ontario, loaded two cargos for England and one for Brazil.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 15.4 million tons, an increase of 4.1 percent compared to a year ago. Compared to the 5-year average for the January-June time frame, the trade is a few cargos ahead of the pace.

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](http://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.

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