



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Water's Up, But Coal's Down in July

CLEVELAND—Rising water levels did not prove a boon for the Great Lakes coal trade in July. Shipments totaled 4.4 million net tons, a decrease of nearly 6 percent compared to a year ago.

Coal shipments from Lake Superior and Lake Michigan were on par with a year ago, but loadings at Lake Erie ports fell by nearly 300,000 tons.

Rising water levels did allow some larger cargos to be carried. Several cargos that transited the connecting channels (St. Marys River and Detroit/St. Clair River) topped 66,000 tons. Towards the end of the month, one cargo exceeded 67,000 tons. However, even these improved payloads fell short of vessels' rated capacity by 4,000 tons or more.

For the year, the Great Lakes coal trade stands at 19.8 million tons, an increase of 2.2 percent compared to a year ago. The trade is fractionally off the 5-year average for the January-July timeframe.

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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