



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

August 19, 2009

### Great Lakes Coal Trade Off 1.1 Million Tons in July

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes in July totaled 3.2 million net tons, a decrease of 1.1 million tons compared to a year ago. In terms of a percentage, the trade was 26 percent off the pace of a year ago.

It is difficult to find anything positive about the coal trade in July. Loadings at only one port, Toledo, Ohio, were on par with a year ago. Every other dock saw shipments dip.

The dredging crisis continued to take its toll on the trade in July. The month's top loads were nearly 5,000 tons less than vessels' optimum capacity. Full loads will not return until the Corps of Engineers' dredging program on the Great Lakes is adequately funded by the Federal government. The lack of adequate funding is galling to industry, as the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which is funded by a tax on waterborne commerce, has a surplus that is approaching \$5 billion. The Great Lakes Navigation System could be restored to functional dimensions for about \$230 million.

For the year, coal shipments stand at 14.2 million tons, a decrease of approximately 28 percent compared to a year ago. The trade is almost 30 percent off the 5-year average for the January-July timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 65 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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 offsets lack of adequate dredging. 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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