



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Coal Orders Strengthen In August

CLEVELAND---After slumping significantly in July, coal shipments on the Great Lakes rebounded by nearly one million tons in August. However, the 4.8 million net tons of coal moved on the Great Lakes last month still represented a decrease of 3 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 25.3 million net tons, a decrease of 4.2 percent compared to the same point in 2005, but an increase of nearly 500,000 net tons compared to the 5-year average for the January-August timeframe.

Three Cargos Symbolize System's Plight

Three coal cargos carried by the same vessel illustrate how differing project depths, fluctuating water levels, and inadequate dredging are limiting the efficiencies of Great Lakes shipping. During the month of August, a 635-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker delivered coal to the Michigan ports of Harbor Beach, Monroe, and Alpena. The cargo carried to Harbor Beach totaled 12,344 net tons. When destined for Monroe, the vessel was able to increase its draft and carry 14,408 net tons. The ship could load even deeper when bound for Alpena and as a result, delivered 15,853 net tons to that port. Nonetheless, the vessel's rated capacity for coal tops 19,000 net tons, so not even the largest cargo even approached a full load.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American corporations that operate 62 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.

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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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GLF GREAT LAKES FLEET CORP. • 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.
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