



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2005

Up Nearly 10 Percent

Coal Surge Continues on Lakes In September

Cleveland---Continued strong demand from the power generating industry kept the Great Lakes coal trade busy in September. Shipments totaled 4.5 million net tons, an increase of 9.8 percent compared to a year ago. The trade also outperformed September's 5-year average by 3.2 percent.

Further evidence of the strength in the coal trade is the fact that shipments exceeded last September's levels at all but one port, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

For the year, the Great Lakes coal trade stands at 30.9 million net tons, an increase of 9.4 percent compared to the first nine months of 2004. Weighed against the 5-year average for the first three quarters, coal shipments are up 6.7 percent.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 12 American corporations that operate 55 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 transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year.

For more information, contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications:

Telephone: (216) 861-0592

Fax: (216) 241-8262

E-Mail: ggn@lcaships.com.

-30-

The above information is 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

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.
GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC.
THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY
SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.