



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

December 19, 2007

Great Lakes Coal Trade Slips Again in October **Dredging Crisis, Low Water Levels Slash Vessel Capacity**

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 3.8 million net tons in October, a decrease of 6.3 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of 10 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

The dredging crisis and low water levels were major contributors to the decreases. Only one coal cargo carried through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, topped 64,000 tons (and just barely). Were the 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Lakers moving coal from Superior, Wisconsin, to basin power plants able to carry full loads, the largest cargos would approach 71,000 tons.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 31.1 million tons, a decrease of 7.8 percent compared to the same point in 2006. Compared to the 5-year average, shipments are nearly 6.7 percent off the pace.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 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 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.

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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