



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

November 14, 2008

In Total, Lakes Coal Trade Steady in October

CLEVELAND—Shipments of coal on the Great Lakes totaled 4 million net tons in October, the same as a year before. However, certain segments of the trade performed better than others. Loadings at Lake Superior terminals rose 13 percent. Shipments from Lake Erie docks, on the other hand, fell 20 percent.

With water levels receding, the impacts of the dredging crisis were again very pronounced. Only one coal cargo that transited the St. Marys River that connects Lake Superior to the lower Lakes topped 66,000 net tons, and that occurred early in the month. By the end of October, the largest cargo moving through the connecting channels was only 65,184 net tons. In periods of high water, vessels have carried loads of nearly 71,000 net tons.

For the year, the Great Lakes coal trade stands at 32 million tons, a slight increase compared to a year ago. Year-to-date, the trade is 3 percent off its 5-year average.

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.

Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications (440-333-9996).

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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.

Suite 720 ♦ 20325 Center Ridge Rd. ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦
www.lcaships.com

The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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