



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Shipments Down 17 Percent

Weather Delays Add to Effects of Light Loading on Coal in November

CLEVELAND—As if the impacts of the dredging crisis weren't bad enough, weather-related vessel delays further reduced coal shipments on the Great Lakes in November. Loadings totaled only 3.3 million net tons, a decrease 17 percent compared to a year ago. The comparison with the month's 5-year average is even worse: Shipments represent a decrease of 19 percent.

Lack of adequate dredging and falling water levels again slashed vessel carrying capacity in November. Even though Class X U.S.-Flag Lakers (the 1,000-footers) have carried nearly 71,000 tons of coal in a single trip when water levels were high in the late 1990s, not one cargo that transited the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, even approached 63,000 tons. A 66,000-ton cargo that was loaded and delivered on Lake Superior fell more than 5,300 tons short of the benchmark for that trade.

For the year, the Lakes coal trade stands at 34.6 million tons, a decrease of 8.8 percent compared to the same point in 2006. Compared to the 5-year average, shipments are 7.6 percent off the pace.

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.

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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