



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

January 15, 2008

### **Fleet Can't Overcome Effect of Lightloading** **Great Lakes Coal Trade Slips by 6.6 Percent in 2007**

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes fell below 39.3 million net tons in 2007, a decrease of 6.6 percent compared to 2006. Loadings were 4.9 percent off the trade's 5-year average.

Lightloading impacted the trade all year, and turned into a virtual stranglehold in December. By month's end, the largest coal cargos barely topped 60,000 tons. When water levels were high in the late 1990s and offset the lack of adequate dredging, the same vessels were carrying nearly 71,000 tons each trip. For those ships to leave port with only 60,000 tons in their holds meant more than 15 percent of the vessels' optimum carrying capacity was unused.

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](http://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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INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • KK INTEGRATED LOGISTICS • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC.  
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