



Lake Carriers' Association For Immediate Release

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Falling Water Levels Trim Loads Too **Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Skips a Beat in April**

Cleveland---The Great Lakes iron ore trade totaled 5.7 million net tons in April, a decrease of 4 percent compared to a year ago. The decrease reflects a combination of factors. Demand for iron ore is a bit sluggish, but a plunging water level on Lake Superior is also reducing the amount of iron ore vessels can load. A 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker with a rated capacity of 71,120 net tons carried four iron ore cargos in April. If ports and waterways were maintained to project dimensions, the vessel would have carried 285,000 net tons of iron ore in April. However, the vessel was only able to deliver 238,000 net tons during the month. More than 16 percent of the vessel's carrying capacity was rendered useless in April because falling water levels are compounding the effects of decades of inadequate dredging

For the year, the Great Lakes iron ore trade stands at 10.4 million net tons, a decrease of 11.3 percent compared to the same point in 2006, but on pace with the 5-year average for the January-April timeframe.

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.

Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes Since 1880