



Lake Carriers' Association For Immediate Release

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Lake's Largest Port Forfeits 100,000 Tons to Dredging Crisis

Light Loading Hampers Lakes Iron Ore Trade in June

Cleveland---The Great Lakes iron ore trade totaled 6.2 million net tons in June, a virtual tie with a year ago, but a slight decrease from the month's 5-year average.

The dredging crisis continued to take a heavy toll on the trade in June. Iron ore shipments from the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin, the largest port on the Lakes, are a case in point. 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Lakers loaded 16 iron ore cargos in Duluth/Superior in June. The cargos totaled 965,000 tons. Yet, had these vessels been able to load to their rated capacity, those 16 loads would have totaled 1,065,000 tons. Lack of adequate dredging throughout the system negated 9 percent of the vessels' carrying capacity, with the end result being that 100,000 tons of iron ore went undelivered.

For the year, the Great Lakes iron ore trade stands at 22.9 million tons, a decrease of 3.7 percent compared to the same point in 2006, but slightly ahead of the 5-year average for the first half.

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