



Lake Carriers' Association For Immediate Release

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Lightloads Cap Iron Ore Surge

Cleveland---Although iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes rose 15 percent in July compared to a year ago, the increase would have been even greater had vessels been able to carry full loads. The trade totaled 7.3 million net tons in July, but even though some vessels saw cargos rise to more than 67,000 tons in a single trip, the ships were still forfeiting 4,000 tons to the dredging crisis.

4,000 tons of iron ore represents a half day's production at a large iron ore mine in Minnesota.

The deeper loads are primarily the result of rising water levels. However, the Lakes typically begin to fall in autumn, so increased dredging is the only long-term solution for restoring the Great Lakes navigation system to project dimensions.

For the year, the Great Lakes iron ore trade stands at 32.3 million tons, an increase of 11 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments are 10 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the January-July timeframe.

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

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