



Lake Carriers' Association For Immediate Release

December 5, 2007

Lakes/Seaway Ore Trade Off 4.5 Percent in August

Cleveland---Shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system totaled 6.2 million net tons in August, a decrease of 4.5 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings trailed the 5-year average for August by 91,000 tons.

The dredging crisis and falling water levels were a significant factor in the decreases. The largest iron ore cargo loaded during the month was only 64,895 tons. Even the month's top load meant the vessel was using only 95 percent of its carrying capacity.

While the St. Marys River is generally the determining factor for draft for most vessels in the iron ore trade, lack of adequate dredging in a major industrial river further negated the efficiencies of waterborne commerce. A vessel that could have delivered 175,000 tons of iron ore in August to a riverfront steel mill was only able to carry 155,000 tons.

For the year, the Great Lakes/Seaway iron ore trade stands at 35.5 million tons, a decrease of 4.9 percent compared to the same point in 2006, but slightly ahead of the 5-year average for the January-August 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

Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications: (216) 861-0592

-30-

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