



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2009

Lakes Ore Trade Stays Stuck in Low Gear in September

CLEVELAND—The Great Lakes iron trade remained in its now nearly year-long slump in September. Shipments from U.S. and Canadian ports totaled only 3,160,932 net tons, a decrease of 51.5 percent compared to a year ago. The trade fared only slightly better when compared to September's 5-year average; shipments were off 49.1 percent.

Higher water levels did allow for several cargos of 67,000 tons or more, but even these top loads were testimony that the dredging crisis is ongoing. In the case of the iron ore trade, lack of adequate dredging throughout the system by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is trimming as much as 5,000 tons from the largest vessels' payloads each trip.

For the year, the Lakes iron ore trade stands at 19,250,148 tons, a decrease of 57.8 percent compared to a year ago. The decrease is only slightly less when compared to the trade's 5-year average for the January-September timeframe – 55.4 percent.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy, including iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone, and cement for the construction industry, and coal for power generation. Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. 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.

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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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