



# Lake Carriers' Association For Immediate Release

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## **Vessels' Capacity Utilization Rates Slipping Too** **Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Slows Again In October**

Cleveland---Shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes in October again dipped below their level of a year ago. Loadings totaled 5.6 million net tons, a decrease of 90,000 net tons. The October total also was more than 200,000 net tons off the month's 5-year average.

While steel production has slowed, the dredging crisis and falling water levels again limited operators' ability to load vessels to their designed draft. Illustrative of the problem are the iron ore cargos carried by a 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker during October. Although the vessel is designed to carry more than 71,000 net tons of iron ore each trip, its first load of the month totaled only 64,105 net tons. With water levels on Lake Superior in a near freefall, its next load slipped to 63,745 net tons. The vessel's third ore cargo plunged to 62,972 net tons. Its final load of the month, 62,603 net tons, represented only 88 percent of its rated capacity.

The vessel is in a dedicated trade route. All four cargos were taken on at the same loading port and discharged at the same receiving port. Falling water levels and lack of adequate dredging are to blame.

For the year, the Lakes iron ore trade stands at 48.9 million net tons, an increase of 4.3 percent compared to both the same point in 2005 and the 5-year average for the January-October 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](http://www.lcaships.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association

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

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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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Suite 915 • 614 West Superior Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383 • Fax: 216-241-8262 • Web site: [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

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

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