



Lake Carriers' Association For Immediate Release

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Lakes/Seaway Ore Trade Up Slightly in October

Cleveland---Shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway System totaled 5.7 million net tons in October, an increase of 1.5 percent compared to a year ago, but a decrease of 2.5 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

The increase would have been greater had vessels been able to carry full loads. One Lake Superior dock loaded 12 cargos into 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Lakers, the largest vessel class in service. The loads totaled 720,000 tons. However, because of the prolonged dredging crisis and low water levels, those cargos actually only represented 89.3 percent of the vessels' carrying capacity. A Great Lakes Navigation System maintained to project dimensions would have allowed the vessels to carry more than 805,000 tons of iron ore in October.

For the year, the Great Lakes/Seaway iron ore trade stands at 47.2 million tons, a decrease of 2.4 percent compared to the same point in 2006. However, in terms of the 5-year average for the January-October timeframe, the trade is down by two cargos in a 1,000-foot-long vessel.

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