



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2009

Lakes Ore Trade in October Outpaces the Month Before

CLEVELAND—Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 3,657,881 net tons in October, an increase of 500,000 tons compared to September. The increase – almost 16 percent – reflects the reactivation of five U.S.-Flag Great Lakes freighters that carry iron ore and other cargoes. The sailing of these vessels on the nation's Fourth Sea Coast has put more than 100 American mariners back to work.

The upturn was not enough to erase the negative comparisons with a year ago. The October ore float represents a decrease of more than 35 percent compared to October 2008. The downturn is slightly more pronounced when compared to the month's 5-year average: 36.7 percent.

For the year, the Great Lakes iron ore trade stands at 22.9 tons, a decrease of 55.38 percent compared to a year ago. The decrease is slightly less when compared to the trade's 5-year average for the January-October timeframe – 53 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 on America's Fourth Sea Coast. 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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