



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Lakes/Seaway Iron Ore Trade Down 8 Percent in 2005

CLEVELAND---Responding to reduced steel production at North American mills, shipments of iron ore from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway ports destined for basin steelmakers totaled 57.6 million tons in 2005, a decrease of 8 percent compared to 2004, and a drop of 4.6 percent compared to the trade's 5-year average.

The decline was most noticeable at U.S. Great Lakes ports. Shipments fell by 8.4 percent compared to 2004; 4.4 percent compared to the 5-year average. Canadian Seaway ports collectively saw their loadings slip by about 500,000 tons compared to 2004 and the 5-year average.

While the 2005 total reflects a year-long slump, shipments were especially low in November, when weather forced U.S.-Flag carriers to anchor for more than 4,500 hours, or the equivalent of 187 sailing days.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American corporations that operate 55 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 transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year. For more information, contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications: Tel: (216) 861-0592 / Fax: (216) 241-8262 / E-Mail: info@lcaships.com.

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The above information is 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

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.
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