



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

March 14, 2006

Cargo Movement Tops Year Ago, 5-Year Average

Busy January for U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Fleet

Cleveland---This past January was one of the busiest in recent years for the U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet. Cargo movement in U.S.-Flag Lakers approached 4.2 million tons, an increase of 20 percent compared to a year ago. Even more notable, however, was how this January stacked up against the month's 5-year average. The fleet outperformed its 5-year average for January by nearly 50 percent.

The greatest gains came in iron ore and coal. Iron ore cargoes were 19 percent ahead of a year ago and surpassed their 5-year average by 44 percent. The coal float was also significantly better than both a year ago and the month's 5-year average, registering increases of 83 and 106 percent respectively.

Despite the mild weather, most of the fleet was in lay-up as January ended. Only a few iron ore and cement cargoes moved in February. While ice was scant on the Lakes, the period from mid-January to mid-March is the primary time for maintaining and modernizing vessels.

U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Cargo Carriage on the Great Lakes January 2001-2006 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

Commodity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average 2001-2005
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	1,069,792	1,422,395	2,099,821	3,264,388	2,383,500	2,758,675	2,047,979
Transshipments	0	0	0	286,765	222,382	330,491	101,829
Total - Iron Ore	1,069,792	1,422,395	2,099,821	3,551,153	2,605,882	3,089,166	2,149,809
Coal							
Lake Superior	289,737	0	19,499	298,817	438,905	420,158	209,392
Lake Michigan	81,006	103,852	74,184	182,194	46,038	289,810	97,455
Lake Erie	311,748	95,849	44,522	171,457	0	179,752	124,715
Total - Coal	682,491	199,701	138,205	652,468	484,943	889,720	431,562
Limestone	0	0	24,245	80,626	195,387	5,000	60,052
Cement	95,580	174,040	94,309	134,690	184,644	143,504	136,653
Salt	0	0	50,212	11,946	13,801	61,194	15,192
Sand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1,847,863	1,796,136	2,406,792	4,430,883	3,484,657	4,188,584	2,793,266

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American corporations that operate 54 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.
GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC.
THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC. • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY
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