



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2011

U.S.-Flag Lakers Move an Extra 470,000 Tons of Cargo Because Soo Locks Stayed Open Three More Days in January

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (“lakers”) carried 3.4 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in January, an increase of 46 percent over a year ago. The January float was also 18 percent better than the month’s 5-year average.

One reason the fleet performed so strongly was demand for iron ore necessitated extending the season through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan by three days. The January 18 closing allowed U.S.-flag lakers to carry an extra 380,000 tons of iron ore. The three extra days of navigation also allowed 90,000 tons of coal to move on the Lakes.

Not all of the additional tons moved during the extension. Some of the cargos were loaded on January 13 and 14. These cargos would not have moved had the locks closed on January 15. With winter in full swing, the vessels might have been delayed by weather and/or ice and unable to reach the locks by midnight January 15. The extension provided enough leeway that the cargos could be loaded.

U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Carriage on the Great Lakes
January 2006-2011 and 5-Year Average
 (net tons)

| Commodity | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | Average 2006-2010 |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Iron Ore | | | | | | | |
| Direct Shipments | 2,758,675 | 2,215,465 | 2,802,607 | 619,157 | 1,697,594 | 2,638,790 | 2,018,700 |
| Transshipments | 330,491 | 99,140 | 107,306 | 0 | 135,360 | 65,618 | 134,459 |
| Total - Iron Ore | 3,089,166 | 2,314,605 | 2,909,913 | 619,157 | 1,832,954 | 2,704,408 | 2,153,159 |
| Coal | | | | | | | 0 |
| Lake Superior | 420,158 | 476,892 | 548,836 | 211,222 | 365,957 | 556,781 | 404,613 |
| Lake Michigan | 289,810 | 121,214 | 43,773 | 60,668 | 26,846 | 44,986 | 108,462 |
| Lake Erie | 179,752 | 49,439 | 96,190 | 27,934 | 102,759 | 40,974 | 91,215 |
| Total - Coal | 889,720 | 647,545 | 688,799 | 299,824 | 495,562 | 642,741 | 604,290 |
| Limestone | 5,000 | 188,303 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,328 | 38,661 |
| Cement | 143,504 | 159,971 | 90,948 | 0 | 29,560 | 35,025 | 84,797 |
| Salt | 61,194 | 22,566 | 101,342 | 0 | 0 | 54,808 | 37,020 |
| Sand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grain | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 4,188,584 | 3,332,990 | 3,791,002 | 918,981 | 2,358,076 | 3,441,310 | 2,917,927 |

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-flag vessels on the Great Lakes that carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, aggregate and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at www.lcaships.com. Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications (440-333-9996).

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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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 GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
 KK INTEGRATED SHIPPING • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC. • LAKES SHIPPING COMPANY, INC. • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY
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