



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

June 14, 2007

### Light Loading Costs Hundreds of Thousands of Tons

## May U.S.-Flag Float on the Great Lakes Static

Cleveland—U.S.-Flag vessels moved 12.1 million tons of dry-bulk cargo on the Great Lakes in May, a virtual tie with a year ago. However, lack of adequate dredging and falling water levels and the resulting light loads were the primary factor behind the static total. A 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker that carried four iron ore cargos in May could have delivered 285,000 tons if able to take full loads, but instead, the vessel only hauled 195,000 tons. Just this one vessel forfeited 90,000 tons of cargo in May because the Great Lakes navigation system has not been maintained to project dimensions.

Vessels in the coal trade experienced similar results. A 1,000-footer that loaded six cargos during the month left 30,000 tons at the loading dock because the vessel could not carry full loads.

Limestone cargos fell 19 percent in May compared to a year ago, and also slipped below the month's 5-year average by 180,000 tons. Although light loading impacted the stone trade, demand is down, markedly in Michigan. Also affecting shipments was the labor dispute that has idled three mid-sized vessels since early May.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage stands at 28.1 million tons, a decrease of 7 percent from the same point in 2006, but 3 percent better than the 5-year average for the January-May timeframe.

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 transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaship.com](http://www.lcaship.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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