



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Ore Demand Strong, But U.S.-Flag Trade Still Off 2 Percent in May

Cleveland — Despite an 8-percent increase in the iron ore tonnage, total cargo movement on the Great Lakes in U.S.-Flag Lakers fell 2 percent in May compared to a year ago. However, the May float – 11.9 million net tons, was, almost to the ton, on par with the month's 5-year average.

The iron ore float approached 5.9 million tons, a reflection of the high operating rates at North American steel mills. However, both the coal and stone floats were more than 200,000 tons off last May's pace.

The effects of the dredging crisis were evident across the fleet. The 1,000-foot-long vessels designed to carry approximately 70,000 tons per trip generally left the dock with less than 64,000 tons of iron ore in their holds. Only two coal cargos topped 65,000 tons.

Even the smaller vessels had to reduce their payloads. The largest cement cargo carried in May – 15,434 tons – was more than 2,300 tons less than the record for the Lakes trade.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 16 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 can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at 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.

The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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