



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

July 21, 2005

The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes

More Than 2 Million Tons Loaded At Superior, Wisconsin

U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Fleet Sets Coal Record In June

Cleveland---The U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet loaded a record amount of low sulfur coal at Superior, Wisconsin in June, 2,026,209 net tons. The total bettered the previous peak set in May 2004 by 75,000 net tons. Most of the record-setting total was carried in 1,000-foot-long vessels, the largest working the Great Lakes. During the month, their loads out of Superior averaged more than 64,000 net tons, or enough coal to power a metropolitan area the size of Greater Detroit for a day.

In total, U.S.-Flag cargo movement on the Great Lakes in June topped 12 million net tons. While the June float was only marginally better than the corresponding period last year, it is 3.2 percent ahead of the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos moved in U.S. bottoms dropped appreciably in June. The 4.7 million net tons hauled represent decreases of 14 percent compared to a year ago and 12.7 percent weighed against the month's 5-year average. Steelmakers have cut back on production in response to high inventories, slumping prices and a slowdown in the automotive industry.

Through the second quarter, U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleets have carried 41.6 million net tons of dry-bulk cargo, a decrease of 1.7 percent compared to the same point in 2004. However, the trade is still noticeably ahead of the 5-year average for the January-June timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 12 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.

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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 • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY
SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKIVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.