



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Rising Water Levels Can't Offset Dredging Shortfall

U.S.-Flag Cargos on Lakes Slip 1.5 Percent In June

Cleveland—U.S-Flag “Lakers” moved 11.9 million net tons of dry-bulk cargo on the Great Lakes in June, a decrease of 1.5 percent compared to a year ago. Compared to the month’s 5-year average, the June float was essentially on par.

High demand for iron ore pushed shipments of that commodity to nearly 5 million net tons, an increase of 6.5 percent compared to a year ago, and only a cargo or two below the month’s 5-year average.

High inventories of coal dropped shipments of that cargo to 2.8 million net tons in June, a decrease of nearly 15 percent compared to a year ago, but some 7 percent ahead of the month’s 5-year average.

Water levels on the Lakes continued their seasonal rise in June and the additional depth did slightly ease the problems related to chronic underfunding of dredging ports and waterways. The largest iron ore cargo topped 65,000 net tons for the first time this year. A few coal cargos in excess of 65,000 net tons were also recorded. Nonetheless, even the month’s top loads fell short of the vessels’ designed carrying capacity.

For the year, the U.S.-Flag float totals 42.1 million net tons, an increase of roughly 500,000 tons compared to the same point in 2005. The fleet is 10 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the first half of the year.

Lake Carriers’ Association represents 18 American corporations that operate 62 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. More information is available at www.lcaship.com

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-30-

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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GLF GREAT LAKES FLEET CORP. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD.
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