



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

July 30, 2008

U.S.-Flag Cargo Movement on Lakes Up Slightly in June

Cleveland — The U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet moved 11.4 million net tons of cargo on the Great Lakes in June, an increase of about 80,000 tons compared to a year ago. The June float was, however, 220,000 tons below the month's 5-year average.

Higher water levels have helped increase payloads, but the dredging crisis remains real. Vessels transiting the St. Marys River, for example, were able to load another 10-12 inches deeper than a year ago, but were still losing more than a foot of draft compared to 1997, a period of near record-high water levels. As a result, while top cargos this June were roughly 2,000 tons greater than a year ago, the month's largest cargos were still 5,000 tons or more below what vessels were able to carrying during the period of high water.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage stands at 39.1 million tons, a slight decrease from a year ago, but more than 700,000 tons off the 5-year average from the first half of the year.

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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GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
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