



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Full Loads for U.S.-Flag Lakes Fleet in July Would Have Easily Offset Idled Vessel Capacity

Cleveland—The U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet saw its shipments slip 3 percent in July to 11,984,044 net tons. The decrease can be attributed to three vessels being idled by a labor dispute. However, had the active fleet been able to carry full loads, the 365,000-ton shortfall could have been easily erased. Instead, lack of adequate dredging throughout the system again limited the amount of cargo that was carried.

The dredging crisis and its impacts are perhaps best illustrated by shipments of western coal from Superior, Wisconsin. While the July total – 1,959,003 tons – is one of the better months on record, shipments would have topped 2.2 million tons if the vessels had been able to carry full loads.

The iron ore trade was similarly impacted. A 1,000-foot-long vessel was able to use only 89 percent of its carrying capacity in July, so the four loads it hauled came up short by 30,000 tons.

Through July, U.S.-Flag carriage stands at 51.4 million tons, a decrease of 5.6 percent from the same point in 2006, and only 1.7 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the first half.

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.

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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