



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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U.S.-Flag Lakes Float Off More Than a Third in September

CLEVELAND—With America's economy still not hitting on all cylinders, the U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet continued to struggle with slumping cargo demand in September. Shipments in U.S. bottoms totaled 7 million net tons, a decrease of 36.2 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings were down 39 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

The year-long slump in iron ore and limestone cargos continued in September. Loadings were off 57 percent and 15 percent respectively.

The coal trade in U.S.-Flag lakers experienced one of its biggest drops of the season. The 2 million tons loaded represented a decrease of 24 percent. Shipments of low-sulfur coal from Superior, Wisconsin accounted for most of the fall-off. Several factors were at work: reduced demand from an Ontario power plant; vessels down for maintenance; and vessels being delayed by heavy weather at the end of the month.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage stands at 42.6 million tons, a decrease of 42.5 percent compared to a year ago. Compared to the 5-year average for the first three quarters, loadings in U.S. bottoms are down 44.3 percent.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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 offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at www.lcaships.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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