



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

November 29, 2005

Coal Surge Offsets Limestone Slump

U.S.-Flag Lakes Float Steady In October

Cleveland---U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleets hauled 11.5 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in October, a virtual tie with both the year before and the month's 5-year average. Iron ore shipments were basically even with a year ago, but trailed the month's 5-year average by 170,000 tons. Continued strong demand for coal pushed loadings to nearly 3 million tons, an increase of 18 percent compared to both a year ago and the month's 5-year average. However, limestone cargos fell by 15 percent when compared to October 2004 and 9 percent when weighed against the month's 5-year average.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage on the Great Lakes stands at 88.8 million tons, a decrease of 2 percent compared to the same point in 2004. However, 2004 totals were not typical of recent years. As a result, the 2005 float through October is in fact 4 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the January-October 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.

For more information, contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications:

Telephone: (216) 861-0592

Fax: (216) 241-8262

E-Mail: info@lcaships.com.

-30-

The above information is 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.

Suite 915 • 614 West Superior Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383 • Fax: 216-241-8262 • Web site: www.lcaships.com

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. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.