



The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes

Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

December 17, 2004

Ore, Coal and Stone Solid

U.S.-Flag Totals Strong Again In November

CLEVELAND---U.S.-Flag "Lakers" moved more than 11 million net tons of dry-bulk cargo in November, an increase of nearly 16 percent compared to a year ago. The November totals were noticeably weak a year ago, but when compared to the month's 5-year average, the 11 million tons moved this November represent an increase of 3 percent.

The major commodities hauled by the fleet – iron ore, coal and stone – all posted significant gains compared to a year ago. Iron ore loadings rose by 10.2 percent. Coal cargos increased by 27.2 percent. Limestone shipments outpaced a year ago by 17.4 percent. When compared to the month's 5-year average, iron ore is even with the long-term. Coal is up by 15 percent, but limestone is slightly off the pace.

Year-to-date, U.S.-Flag carriage on the Great Lakes stands at 101.7 million net tons. That total is 7 million tons more than the fleet moved in all of 2003 and represents an increase of 5.8 percent compared to the 5-year average for the January-November timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 15 American corporations that operate 57 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year. For more information visit LCA's Web site - www.lcaships.com - or contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications:

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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • CLEVELAND TANKERS SHIP MANAGEMENT INC.
GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATES, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD.
INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ISG BURNS HARBOR, LLC • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY
PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY • SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.