



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

December 20, 2005

### Fleet At Anchor More Than 5,000 Hours

## Weather Delays Costly For U.S.-Flag Lakes Fleet In November

Cleveland---A stormy November took its toll on the movement of dry-bulk cargos on the Great Lakes in U.S.-Flag vessels. With 60 vessels idled more than 5,000 hours during the month, the major U.S.-Flag carriers moved only 9.5 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in November, a drop of 16 percent compared to a year ago. Even when weighed against the month's 5-year average, the November 2005 float was more than 11 percent off the pace.

The iron ore trade suffered the greatest decline in November. Loadings fell more than 21 percent compared to both a year ago and the month's 5-year average. While weather delays were the primary cause for the slump, the trade was further impacted by a lengthy repair on a 1,000-foot-long U.S.-Flag Laker dedicated to moving iron ore.

Limestone shipments did not fare much better, slipping 18 and 14 percent respectively compared to a year ago and the month's 5-year average. Only coal loadings even approached last November's level.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage on the Great Lakes stands at 98.4 million tons, a decrease of 3.3 percent compared to the same point in 2004, but slightly ahead of the 5-year average for the January-November 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.

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### ***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.