



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Steel Slowdown Apparent in U.S.-Flag Lakers' November Total

Cleveland — The downturn in steel production impacted U.S.-Flag lakers' November iron ore float. The fleet moved 3.9 million net tons of iron ore in November, a decrease of 3.2 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of 8.8 percent compared to the month's 5-year average. Not one iron ore cargo was transshipped in November, as the steel mill in Cleveland, Ohio, has idled its blast furnaces. The last time the iron ore trade on the Cuyahoga River was silent during the shipping season was in 2001 when LTV Steel was facing extinction.

The decrease in iron ore cargos in November was actually greater than the totals suggest. The fleet experienced significant weather-related delays in November of 2007. The 4 million net tons that moved a year ago were not indicative of demand.

The dredging crisis did not help matters in November. Even the top iron ore loads were 8,000 tons or more below vessels' rated capacities.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage stands at 95.2 million net tons, an increase of roughly 700,000 net tons over the same point in 2007. However, the U.S.-Flag float lags behind the 5-year average for the January-November timeframe by 850,000 net tons.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 16 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 can transport more than 115 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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