



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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One, Perhaps Two Records Set Despite Dip

U.S.-Flag Cargo Movement on Lakes Slips in 2005

CLEVELAND---The major U.S.-Flag Great Lakes carriers moved 107.7 million tons of dry-bulk cargo on the Great Lakes in 2005, a decrease of 3.3 percent compared to 2004. However, the 2005 float was nearly 3 million tons ahead of the industry's 5-year average.

While U.S.-Flag totals trailed 2004 the entire year, the gap would have been narrower but for significant weather delays in November. U.S.-Flag Lakers were forced to anchor for more than 4,500 hours that month.

Despite the overall decline, the U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet set a new record for shipments of low-sulfur coal from Superior, Wisconsin. Loadings in U.S. bottoms approached 17.5 million tons, or nearly two million tons better than the record established in 2004.

The U.S.-Flag Laker fleet also likely set another record in 2005. The 9.3 million tons of cargo carried between the United States and Canada is the highest total since Lake Carriers' Association began to track this movement in 1994.

As a result of reduced steel production, iron ore cargoes fell 9 percent compared to a year ago and trailed the 5-year average by 7 percent. The slowdown in steel, coupled with a sluggish construction industry, was also a factor in the decrease in shipments of limestone. That trade slipped by 6.5 compared to 2004, but did outperform its 5-year average by nearly 1 million tons.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 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

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