



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

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### U.S.-Flag Cargo Movement on Lakes Down 5.2 Percent in 2007

Cleveland — With U.S.-Flag Great Lakes vessels lightloading a thousand times or more in 2007, U.S.-Flag cargo movement fell to 104 million net tons, a decrease of 5.2 percent compared to 2006. Iron ore cargos slipped 3.6 percent. Coal loadings were down by 160,000 tons. Limestone cargos plunged 12 percent.

Economic factors behind the decline include lower steel production and a slowdown in the construction industry that reduced demand for aggregate. Weather delays also affected shipments in the final two months of the year.

The effects of the dredging crisis and falling water levels became even more pronounced as the year ended. Vessels that have carried nearly 71,000 tons of coal in a single trip saw their payloads shrink to 60,000 tons. Even though the record iron ore cargo through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, tops 72,000 tons, December's best ore load totaled only 62,260 tons. A vessel that can carry 54,000 tons of limestone in a single trip had to settle for 49,000 tons on its best run in December.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American corporations that operate 62 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 when high water levels offset lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

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-30-

*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.*

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

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