



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

April 9, 2012

U.S.-Flag Lakers' Cargo Down Slightly in March

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters ("lakers") carried 2,348,247 tons of cargo in March, a decrease of 110,000 tons, or 4 percent, compared to a year ago. However, the March "float" was up 10 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos for the steel industry decreased 14 percent compared to a year ago, but coal loadings held even and limestone cargos more than tripled last March's volume.

Year-to-date U.S.-flag cargos total 6.4 million tons, an increase of 8 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments are 27 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the first quarter.

On April 1, 40 U.S.-flag lakers were in service, an increase of two hulls compared to a year ago.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 56 U.S.-flag vessels on the Great Lakes that carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, aggregate and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year. These cargos generate more than 103,000 jobs with an average wage of \$47,000 in the United States.

More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

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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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GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
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