



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2012

May Great Lakes Coal Trade Mirrors a Year Ago

CLEVELAND – Shipments of coal on the Great Lakes totaled 2.9 million tons in May, an increase of 32 percent over April and a virtual repeat performance of a year ago. However, when compared to its 5-year average for the month of May, the trade was down 20 percent.

Loadings at Lake Superior ports increased slightly, and included 210,000 tons transshipped to Quebec for delivery overseas. Shipments from Chicago dipped slightly, but loadings at Lake Erie ports were unchanged from a year ago.

Year-to-date the Lakes coal trade stands at 6.2 million tons, a decrease of 5.1 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings are nearly 26 percent behind the 5-year average for the January-May timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 57 U.S.-flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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, as well as salt, sand and grain. Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year. Those cargos support more than 103,000 jobs with an average wage of \$47,000. More information is available at www.lcaships.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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