



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2011

Lakes Iron Ore Trade Up 60 Percent in January Season Extension Swelled Total by 380,000 Tons

CLEVELAND—Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 3,045,269 net tons in January, an increase of more than 60 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings were also 20 percent ahead of the month's 5-year average.

January shipments were able to register such a significant increase because strong demand for iron ore necessitated a 3-day extension of the season through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The locks normally close on January 15, but the January 18 closing allowed U.S.-flag lakers to carry an extra 380,000 tons of iron ore.

Not all of the additional tons moved during the extension. Some of the cargos were loaded on January 13 and 14. The vessels would not have been able to reliably reach the Soo by midnight January 15, so the extension made these voyages possible.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 55 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.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. 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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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes
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