



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Cargo Movement on the Great Lakes In U.S.-Flag Vessels Down 4.6 Percent in 2012

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (“lakers”) carried 89.5 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in 2012, a decrease of 4.6 percent compared to 2011. The 2012 float was 1.5 percent off the 5-year average for U.S.-flag lakers.

U.S.-flag lakers carried 45.2 million tons of iron ore in 2012, or 73.3 percent of the total volume of iron ore moved on the Great Lakes last year. The 45.2 million tons of iron ore carried by U.S.-flag lakers represented a decrease of 4.3 percent from 2011.

Coal cargos moved in U.S. bottoms totaled 17.6 million tons in 2012, or 69.3 percent of the total volume of coal moved on the Great Lakes last year. The 17.6 million tons of coal carried by U.S.-flag lakers represented a decrease of 13.1 percent from 2011.

The limestone trade in U.S.-flag hulls totaled 21.8 million tons in 2012, or 79 percent of the total volume of limestone moved on the Great Lakes last year. The 21.8 million tons of limestone carried by U.S.-flag lakers represented an increase of 1.7 percent (360,000 tons) over 2011.

Year-end totals for the other commodities are not yet available for vessels of all flags, but U.S.-flag cargos of cement increased 13 percent. Loadings of salt in U.S.-flag lakers slipped almost 30 percent. The sand trade in U.S. bottoms was virtually unchanged from 2011, but grain cargos in U.S.-flag hulls rose 31 percent.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 57 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, as well as salt, sand and grain. Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year. More information is available at www.lcaships.com. Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President (440-333-9996).

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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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