



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2013

Cargo Movement on the Great Lakes In U.S.-Flag Vessels Down 23.6 Percent in January

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (“lakers”) carried 3 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in January, a decrease of 23.6 percent compared to 2012. However, the fleet’s January float was slightly ahead of the month’s 5-year average.

U.S.-flag lakers carried 2.7 million tons of iron ore in January, or 84.7 percent of the total volume of iron ore moved on the Great Lakes that month. However, the January ore float was 17.5 percent below a year ago. The comparison is somewhat problematic; in January 2012, the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, stayed open until January 18 to allow iron ore cargos that had been delayed by weather to reach steelmakers, whereas this year they closed on January 15.

Coal cargos moved in U.S. bottoms totaled 185,000 tons in January, or 80.2 percent of the total volume of coal moved on the Great Lakes that month. However, the fleet’s coal total was down 38.8 percent compared to a year ago.

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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