



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Early and Harsh Winter Costs U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Fleets Opportunity to End 2013 on the Plus Side

CLEVELAND—Significant weather and ice delays and cancelled cargos limited U.S.-flag cargo movement on the Great Lakes to just 7.1 million tons in December and as a result, the fleet's year-end total slipped to 89.2 million tons, a decrease of 0.4 percent compared to 2012.

Iron ore cargos carried in U.S.-flag lakers totaled 43.9 million tons in 2013, a decrease of 3 percent compared to 2012. Those cargos represented 75.2 percent of all the iron ore moved on the system last year. Through November, U.S.-flag ore cargos had been just slightly behind 2012's pace, but the brutal weather in December slashed shipments to just 4 million tons, a decrease of 21 percent compared to December 2012.

Coal cargos totaled 18.2 million tons in 2013, an increase of 3.7 percent, and 74 percent of all Lakes coal last year. The total would have been higher, but several coal cargos were cancelled in December.

The limestone trade in U.S. bottoms also registered a slight increase over 2012. Shipments totaled 22.1 million tons, an increase of 1.5 percent, and the highest volume since 2008. The 22.1 million tons also represent 80 percent of the Lakes stone trade.

Shipments of cement, salt, sand and grain were largely in line with 2012.

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.

20325 Center Ridge Rd., Ste. 720 ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦ www.lcaships.com

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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