



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

April 7, 2014

### Lakes Ice Stalls Resumption of Coal Trade

CLEVELAND – Ice, sometimes more than 4 feet thick in places, effectively stalled the resumption of the coal trade on the Great Lakes in March. Only three coal cargos were loaded, one on Lake Superior, one on Lake Michigan and one on Lake Erie. Combined, the cargos totaled 102,000 tons, a decrease of 70 percent compared to a year ago.

Compared to the month's 5-year average, March loadings were down more than 80 percent.

Year-to-date the Lakes coal trade stands at 475,000 tons, a decrease of 16 percent compared to a year ago, but 54 percent below the long-term average for the first quarter.

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](http://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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