



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2014

Lakes Coal Down 18 Percent in August

CLEVELAND – Coal shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 2.6 million tons in August, a decrease of 18 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings also trailed the month's long-term average by nearly 19 percent.

Shipments from Lake Superior ports totaled 1,542,703 tons, a decrease of 28 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of 20 percent compared to the month's long-term average.

Loadings on Lake Michigan totaled 196,413 tons, a decrease of 34 percent compared to a year ago, and some 38 percent off the month's long-term average.

Shipments from Lake Erie ports totaled 885,120 tons, an increase of 18 percent compared to a year ago, but a decrease of 10 percent compared to the month's long-term average.

Year-to-date the Lakes coal trade stands at 12,786,720 tons, a decrease of 11 percent compared to a year ago. The decrease would be more, but higher water levels have allowed for larger payloads this season. The largest coal cargo that moved in the Head-of-the-Lakes trade in 2013 totaled 65,796 tons. Through August of this year, the top coal load transiting the Soo Locks has totaled 67,992 tons. However, even this season's best coal load still comes up about 3,000 tons short of a full load. Furthermore, Lakes water levels normally begin to fall in autumn, so going forward, individual cargos will be less than those hauled this summer.

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.

Source: Lake Carriers' Association. 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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