



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

October 24, 2014

U.S.-Flag Lakers Move 350,000 Tons of Cargo Per Day in September

CLEVELAND — U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 10.6 million tons of cargo in September, an average of 353,611 tons per day, and an increase of 6.8 percent compared to a year ago. The September float was also 9.1 percent better than the month's long-term average.

Iron ore destined for the nation's steel mills totaled 5.4 million tons in September, an increase of 13.8 percent compared to a year ago. Thanks to higher water levels, a few cargos approached 70,000 tons, but the decades-old dredging crisis still forced vessels to forfeit significant carrying capacity. Even the best loads were still about 3,000 tons short of what vessels were able to carry in 1997, a period of near record-high water levels.

Coal cargos totaled 1.9 million tons, a decrease of 8.7 percent compared to a year ago. Percentage-wise, the decrease was pretty evenly spread across the three port ranges: Lake Superior; Lake Michigan; and Lake Erie.

Shipments of limestone increased 7.5 percent to 2.7 million tons.

Year-to-date, U.S.-flag cargo movement stands at 60 million tons, a decrease of 5.5 percent compared to the same point in 2013. The industry has yet to fully recover from the staggering delays encountered in March and April when heavy ice blanketed the Lakes. Iron ore cargos are down 4.6 percent. Coal loads are 8.9 percent off last year's pace. U.S.-flag lakers' limestone trade is down 5.7 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).

###

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, OH 44116-3572 ♦ www.lcaships.com

Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes since 1880
AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ANDRIE INC. • ARMSTRONG STEAMSHIP COMPANY • BELL STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC.
GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET/KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC. • LAKES SHIPPING COMPANY, INC. • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY • PORT CITY MARINE SERVICES
PORT CITY STEAMSHIP SERVICES • SOO MARINE SUPPLY, INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.