



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

December 23, 2014

U.S.-Flag Lakes Cargos Up in November, But Fleet Still Trails Last Year

CLEVELAND — U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 9.3 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in November, an increase of 6.2 percent compared to a year ago. The total would have been higher, but there were a number of weather-related delays. In fact, the November float actually represents a decrease of nearly 18 percent compared to October's volume.

Iron ore for the steel industry totaled 4.6 million tons in November, an increase of 22.4 percent compared to a year ago. That increase allowed the year-to-date total for iron ore to inch passed 2013's end-of-November tally by 350,000 tons.

Coal cargos totaled 1.9 million tons, a decrease of 16.6 percent compared to a year ago. Limestone cargos registered a slight increase – 45,000 tons.

The fleet's year-to-date total – 80.5 million tons – remains nearly 2 percent off last year's pace. Despite higher water levels and the activation of three additional hulls, the U.S.-flag Lakes fleet has yet to fully overcome the cargo shortfalls suffered last winter and this spring when glacial ice packed the shipping lanes.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 56 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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