

Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Strong Start to Ore Trade Lifts U.S.-Flag Lakes Float in March

CLEVELAND — U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 2.1 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in March, an increase of nearly 19 percent compared to a year ago, and a 28 percent increase over the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore for steel production spurred the increase. Loadings rose 27 percent to 1.7 million tons. Iron ore shipments were up even more, 48 percent, when compared to the month's 5-year average.

Coal loadings were virtually unchanged in March. Limestone and cement registered small decreases.

On April 1, U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleets had 34 vessels in service, an increase of three hulls compared to a year ago. As of today, the active U.S.-flag fleet totals 39 vessels.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American companies that operate 49 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 100 million tons of cargo per year. More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

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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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