

Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release



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Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Down Almost 40 Percent in March

Cleveland – Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 975,000 tons in March, a decrease of 39 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings also trailed the month's 5-year average by more than 26 percent.

The decrease reflects the lack of adequate icebreaking resources on the Great Lakes. The ice fields in Whitefish Bay at the eastern end of Lake Superior and in the Straits of Mackinac were very thick, but two of the U.S. Coast Guard's icebreakers have been in need of extensive repairs this spring and the government shutdown did delay some work.

Year-to-date the iron ore trade stands at 3.4 million tons, an increase of 9.5 percent. Ice conditions in January were less challenging.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American companies that operate 46 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 90 million tons of cargo per year. More information is available at www.lcaships.com. Contact: Glen 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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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes Since 1880

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