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Great Lakes Shipyard Conditions the Research Vessel Sturgeon for Smooth Operation

Great Lakes Shipyard, Cleveland, OH, completed 5-year overhaul work on the U.S. Geological Survey Research Vessel Sturgeon. Under a Fleet Maintenance Contract with the Great Lakes Science Center, Ann Arbor, MI of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, the Sturgeon was drydocked and given a thorough cleaning, painting, inspection, repair and tune up. Some of the major work items included redesigning the hydraulic system, shaft and propulsion repairs, generator overhauls and steering system repairs. The 105 ft. long Sturgeon was built in 1974 and is home-ported in Cheboygan, MI. The Sturgeon is the Center's second largest vessel with great geographic range and advanced scientific abilities. The primary mission of the R/V Sturgeon is to support fisheries related science in Lake Michigan using state-of-the-art electronic technology and traditional sampling gear such as bottom and midwater trawls and gillnets. As the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems.

Great Lakes Shipyard, a division of The Great Lakes Towing Company, operates a full-service shipyard and dry dock in Cleveland, OH. They specialize in all types of marine construction and vessel repairs including tugs, supply boats, ferries, barges, excursion vessels, dinner boats, research vessels and large yachts. They are currently expanding their property, capabilities and workforce for a new 770-ton mobile travelift crane. The crane is presently being manufactured by Marine Travelift, Sturgeon Bay, WI and will be operational by July 2011. This new Travelift will be the largest of its type on the U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes, and the second largest Travelift in the western hemisphere, solidifying the shipyard's "small vessel" niche standing and as a state-of-the-art facility.

The Great Lakes Shipyard's Order Book now includes orders for construction of two new 70-foot all aluminum research vessels for U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center, a 60 foot workboat for The Port of Milwaukee and a new 3,200 h.p. HandySize tugboat.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Joe Starck: jps@thegreatlakesgroup.com
(216) 367-8126

Mark Foley: mdf@thegreatlakesgroup.com
(216) 367-8127

4500 Division Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102