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## THE FLEET AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS IN THE SHIPPING LINE

### ABSTRACT

The Navigable Management of Lakes Maggiore, Garda and Como, founded in 1957 by State Law, is without doubt, due to its size of fleet whether considering passenger numbers, car transport, the size of the territory it serves or the number of staff employed, is the biggest operating in Italy as far as internal waterway navigation is concerned, and comes first amongst analogous Firms at a European level.

At the moment the management is organised in a General Department in Milan to which three Operative Offices depend dislocated one per lake: Arona for Lake Maggiore, Desenzano for lake Garda and Como for Lake Como plus four shipbuilding yards provided with the right equipment to carry out ordinary and extraordinary maintenance of its fleet. Our yards are placed one for each lake.

These shipyards are also used by the firm which have won community contracts for the construction of new units where the size of the vessel is over 25-26 metres long and /or 6 metres wide, as this is the limit of size which can be transported by motorway.

To carry out its activity the Management also owns landing stages for its own exclusive use for public transport.

Service routes produced by the Management essentially answer the principle of the TPL (Local Public Transport), guaranteeing in this particular natural context, the possibility of rapid and frequent links by water.

These services are essentially developed as such:

- longitudinal routes
- circular routes aimed at connecting opposite shores and links with the islands

Moreover the Management also handles ferries which allow quick movement of travellers with cars from one side of the lake to the opposite and vice-versa on all three lakes.

The ferry routes are guaranteed on the stretches

INTRA-LAVENO on Lake Maggiore

LIMONE-MALCESINE and TORRI-MADERNO for lake Garda,

and the triangle MENAGGIO-BELLAGIO-VARENNA on lake Como.

The services offered by the Management allow the transport of about 9,000,000 passengers and about 700,000 vehicles per year.

On average about 700 seasonal and full-time workers are employed. Moreover, on the basis of an International Agreement which regulates the navigational services on lakes Maggiore and Lugano, the Management has to guarantee public service of passenger transport in the Swiss basin of Lake Maggiore with links to Locarno and Brissago, Porto Ronco, Ascona, Tenero, Magadino, Bira, San Nazzaro, Gerra and Ranzo localities.

The service in the Swiss basin gives, on average, work to about 30 Swiss employees and operates the whole year round transporting over 900,000 people.

The Management owns a fleet of 88 ships, of which 20 are ferries RO-RO for the transportation of passengers with cars, 20 fast ships, hydrofoil and catamarans, and over 5 working vessels (rammers, rigs)

There are also old steamers such as the “PIEMONTE” built in 1904 and the “CONCORDIA” built in 1926, both in perfect working condition with alternative machinery of expansion, as well as the “ZANARDELLE” built in 1903 and “ITALIA” built in 1908, which, while keeping the traditional propulsion with lateral blades, it was necessary to transform them into hydraulic diesel.

Of course there are modern motorboats like the “ORIONE” motorboat and its twin “ANDROMEDA” able to transport 750 people on three decks both equipped with modern bars and restaurants which can sit 240 people.

The Management has also started a programme to build 8/9 smaller motor ships of 132 passengers, 2 modern motor ships able to transport 420 passengers which can sit 136 in the restaurant and a new diesel-electric powered ferry.

As far as regards the engines, our ships are exceptionally equipped with MTU for the propulsion, IVECO-AIFO, also used as electric generators and DEUTZ on the latest motor ships.

The propulsion systems on board our ships are:

- SHOTTEL and VOITH especially on the ferry motor ships
- traditional shaft-line with both fixed and moveable blades
  - SHOTTEL azimuth on the latest “ORIONE” and “ANDROMEDA”

All our ships are class certified by RINA