



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

April 17, 2013

### U.S.-Flag Lakers' Float Down 7 Percent in March

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) carried 2.2 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in March, a decrease of 7 percent compared to 2012. However, the fleet's March float was marginally ahead of the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore shipments in U.S. hulls rose slightly – 25,000 tons – compared to a year ago, but loadings of coal declined by more than 60 percent. The fleet's limestone trade nearly doubled.

Through the first quarter, U.S.-flag lakers have hauled 5.2 million tons of cargo, a decrease of nearly 19 percent compared to the same point in 2012. Iron ore cargos are down by 13.4 percent. Coal loadings are down by more than 50 percent, but limestone is 61 percent ahead of last year's pace.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 57 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](http://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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**The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes**  
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