



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2015

Ice and Weather Slow Resumption of Lakes Stone Trade in April

CLEVELAND—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 1.8 million tons in April, a decrease of 9 percent compared to the month's 5-year average, and a drop of 30 percent compared to 2012, the last April in which ice conditions were not near arctic.

Heavy ice cover on the Lakes was the major factor behind the decreases. The ice formations were so formidable that the U.S.-flag Class V lakers that are heavily engaged in the stone trade collectively delayed their sailings by 60 days compared to 2014. Class V lakers are vessels that range in length from 600 to 649 feet and can transit rivers such as the Cuyahoga in Cleveland or the Saginaw River in Michigan.

Cold temperatures also slowed the resumption of mining at several quarries. Only 510,000 tons of aggregate and fluxstone had moved by mid-month.

Efforts to get more icebreaking resources on the Lakes are moving forward. Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI) included a provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Bill approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that directs the U.S. Coast Guard to design and build a new, multi-mission icebreaker to enhance its capabilities on the Great Lakes. The past two winters have been so brutal that millions of tons of various cargos have gone undelivered and that has cost the economy hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: APRIL 2010-2015 AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE (net tons)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2010-2014
U.S. Ports	2,025,885	1,743,034	2,111,327	1,596,519	968,472	1,604,339	1,689,047
Canadian Ports	439,407	383,488	462,006	247,670	14,658	214,366	309,445
Total	2,465,294	2,126,522	2,573,333	1,844,189	983,130	1,818,705	1,998,492

YEAR-TO-DATE 2010-2015 AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE (net tons)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2010-2014
U.S. Ports	2,042,805	1,793,218	2,291,394	1,889,379	968,472	1,801,615	1,797,053
Canadian Ports	439,407	383,488	462,006	248,141	14,658	238,096	309,540
Total	2,482,212	2,176,706	2,753,400	2,137,520	983,130	2,039,711	2,106,593

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI.
Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island and Smelter Bay (all Ontario).

Lake Carriers' Association represents 16 American companies that operate 56 U.S.-flag vessels on the Lakes and carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: iron ore and fluxstone for steel production, aggregate and cement for construction, 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. 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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