



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

June 10, 2015

Lakes Limestone Trade Ramps Up in May

CLEVELAND—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 3.8 million tons in May, an increase of 16.6 percent compared to a year ago, and the highest monthly total recorded since June 2012. In terms of tons, shipments from U.S. quarries registered the largest gain: 326,000 tons.

Unlike a year ago, the limestone trade was not hampered by the aftereffects of a brutal winter. The Lakes were basically ice-free, whereas in 2014, ice formations lingered well into May and a number of vessels were idled for a period to repair ice damage suffered in March and April.

Year-to-date shipments of limestone total 5.9 million tons, an increase of 37.7 percent compared to the same point in 2014. However, as impressive as that increase is, it could have been greater. A number of vessels that primarily serve the short-haul stone trade delayed their sailings this April rather than become beset in ice. The Coast Guard Authorization Act passed by the House of Representatives includes a provision that authorizes the Commandant to design and build a new icebreaker for its Great Lakes fleet. The Senate has yet to take up its Coast Guard bill.

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: May 2010-2015 and Long-Term Average (net tons)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2010-2014
U.S. Ports	2,740,212	2,347,898	2,728,553	3,042,163	2,768,944	3,094,460	2,725,554
Canadian Ports	898,836	553,828	626,836	509,458	496,961	715,241	617,184
Total	3,639,048	2,901,726	3,355,389	3,551,621	3,265,905	3,809,701	3,342,738

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: Year-To-Date 2010-2015 and Long-Term Average (net tons)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2010-2014
U.S. Ports	4,783,017	4,141,116	5,019,947	4,931,542	3,737,416	4,896,075	4,522,608
Canadian Ports	1,338,243	937,316	1,088,842	757,599	511,619	953,337	926,724
Total	6,121,260	5,078,432	6,108,789	5,689,141	4,249,035	5,849,412	5,449,332

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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