



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2015

Lakes Limestone Trade Tops 4 Million Tons in June

CLEVELAND—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 4,042,766 tons in June, an increase of 6 percent compared to May, and 9-plus percent compared to a year ago. The June stone float is also the highest monthly total since July of 2014.

U.S. quarries shipped 3.3 million tons in June, an increase of 6.8 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments from Canadian quarries totaled 765,000 tons, an increase of 21 percent.

Year-to-date the Lakes limestone trade stands at 9.9 million tons, an increase of 24.4 percent compared to a year ago. Market conditions alone do not explain the increase. The ice on the Lakes was so formidable in March, April, and early May of 2014 that the limestone trade got off to one of its latest and slowest starts in recent memory. Other cargos were similarly impacted.

Congress is aware of the delays Lakes shipping has suffered these past two winters. As a result, the Senate's FY16 Homeland Security Appropriations bill directs the Coast Guard to conduct a Great Lakes mission analysis study within 180 days of the bill's enactment to determine the assets necessary to effectively and reliably keep commerce moving during the ice season, including consideration of a second MACKINAW-class icebreaker. The House's Coast Guard Authorization Act authorizes the Commandant to design and build a new icebreaker for its Lakes fleet.

An icebreaker with capabilities that match the MACKINAW is estimated to cost \$151 million. Cargos cancelled or delayed by ice these past two winters have cost the region an estimated 5,800 jobs and \$1.1 billion in economic activity.

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: June 2010-2015 and Long-Term Average

(net tons)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2010-2014
U.S. Ports	3,048,324	2,909,044	3,226,497	3,137,880	3,069,520	3,278,629	3,078,253
Canadian Ports	817,458	685,611	626,970	494,770	633,646	764,137	651,691
Total	3,865,782	3,594,655	3,853,467	3,632,650	3,703,166	4,042,766	3,729,944

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	7,831,341	7,050,160	8,246,444	8,069,422	6,806,936	8,174,704	7,799,341
Canadian Ports	2,155,701	1,622,927	1,715,812	1,252,369	1,145,265	1,717,474	1,686,702
Total	9,987,042	8,673,087	9,962,256	9,321,791	7,952,201	9,892,178	9,486,043

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI. Kellys Island ceased shipping in fall 2009. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island and Smelter Bay (all Ontario).

LCA represents 16 American companies that operate 56 U.S.-flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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. 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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