



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2005

The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes

2004 Best Year For Lakes Limestone Trade This Decade

CLEVELAND---Shipments of limestone from U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes ports totaled 40.2 million net tons in 2004, the highest tally recorded to date this decade. While weather delays slowed the trade in December, demand for aggregate and fluxstone was strong all year. U.S. ports loaded 31.7 million net tons, an increase of 17.1 percent compared to 2003 and 4.8 percent better than the 5-year average. Canadian terminals shipped 8.5 million net tons, increases of 19.9 and 15.9 percent compared to 2003 and the 5-year average.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE DECEMBER 2000-2004 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

(net tons)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	5-Year Average
U.S Ports*	1,544,056	2,231,312	2,106,744	1,675,400	1,529,816	1,817,466
Canadian Ports	500,734	399,924	472,881	696,487	676,565	549,318
Total	2,046,790	2,633,237	2,581,627	2,373,890	2,206,381	2,366,784

* December and year-end totals for 2000-2003 have been amended to include shipments from Kelleys Island, OH.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE YEAR-TO-DATE 2000-2004 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

(net tons)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	5-Year Average
U.S Ports	31,002,777	30,724,237	30,673,673	27,069,656	31,691,083	30,232,285
Canadian Ports	7,116,220	7,180,562	6,863,570	7,115,172	8,530,969	7,361,299
Total	38,120,997	37,906,800	37,539,245	34,186,831	40,222,052	37,593,584

This survey represents shipments from the following Great Lakes ports:

United States: Calcite, MI; Cedarville, MI; Drummond Island, MI; Kellys Island, OH; Marblehead, OH; Port Inland, MI; and Presque Isle, MI.

Canada: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne and Smelter Bay (all Ontario).

Lake Carriers' Association represents 15 American corporations that operate 57 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can annually transport 125 million tons of cargo. For more information on Great Lakes shipping, visit LCA's Web site: www.lcaships.com.

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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • CLEVELAND TANKERS SHIP MANAGEMENT INC.
GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATES, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD.
INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ISG BURNS HARBOR, LLC • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY
PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY • SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.