



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2010

Lakes Limestone Trade Up Nearly One Million Tons in April

Cleveland---Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes in April point to a continued rebound in economic activity in the nation's industrial heartland. Shipments from U.S. and Canadian ports totaled 2,465,294 net tons, an increase of 59 percent, or 911,795 tons, compared to a year ago.

Rising steel production accounts for some of the increase. It takes about 400 pounds of fluxstone to make a ton of steel in a blast furnace. There are also reports that demand for aggregate for road construction and repair projects is on the rise.

The trade's recovery is not complete. April loadings were 19 percent below the month's 5-year average.

The April totals basically reflect limestone's year-to-date performance. Only one cargo – 16,920 tons – was loaded in March.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: APRIL 2005-2010 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average 2005-2009
U.S. Ports	3,082,615	2,845,006	2,485,315	2,347,463	1,225,179	2,025,885	2,397,115
Canadian Ports	736,667	978,224	609,875	656,100	326,311	439,407	661,435
Total	3,819,282	3,825,236	3,095,190	3,005,571	1,553,499	2,465,294	3,058,550

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2005-2010 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average 2005-2009
U.S. Ports	3,539,633	3,310,762	2,835,315	2,506,716	1,241,551	2,042,805	2,686,795
Canadian Ports	924,328	1,099,241	704,875	656,100	326,311	439,407	742,171
Total	4,463,961	4,412,009	3,540,190	3,164,824	1,569,871	2,482,212	3,428,966

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 and is not expected to resume operations. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne, and Smelter Bay (all Ontario). Port Colborne ceased shipping by vessel in 2006.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 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, limestone and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at www.lcaships.com. Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications. Telephone: (440) 333-9996.

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Information based on data sources believed to be reliable. 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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