



*The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes*

# Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2005

March Total On Track With A Year Ago; Well Above 5-Year Average

## Steady Start For U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Fleet

Cleveland---The U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet carried 3,350,705 net tons of dry-bulk cargo in March, virtually unchanged from a year ago, but a significant increase over the month's 5-year average. There was little variation in any of the major commodities compared to a year ago, but again, the March 2005 totals represent noticeable gains compared to the month's 5-year average.

Through the first quarter, U.S-Flag dry-bulk carriage stands at 7.1 million net tons, a decrease of 11 percent compared to the same point in 2004, but an increase of 30 percent compared to the 5-year average. The increase primarily reflects the rebound in iron ore cargoes for America's steelmakers.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American corporations that operate 56 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels 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 transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year.

For more information, visit LCA's Web site - [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com) - or contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications:

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

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, 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  
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