



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

July 14, 2005

*The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes*

### Year-To-Date Total Slightly Behind 2004

## U.S.-Flag Shipping Steady on the Lakes in May

Cleveland---The U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet hauled 12 million net tons of dry-bulk cargo in May, a virtual tie with a year ago, and an increase of 2.2 percent compared to the month's 5-year average. Slight decreases in coal and limestone compared to a year ago were largely offset by a 200,000 net ton gain in iron ore cargos. However, the May coal and stone totals, while marginally lower than a year, still represent increases over the month's 5-year average, yet the iron ore float is actually noticeably below the average for 2000-2004 and illustrates the degree to which the North American steel industry has restructured this century.

For the year, U.S.-Flag cargo carriage on the Great Lakes stands at 29.6 million net tons, a decrease of 2.5 percent compared to the same point in 2004. The fall-off in iron ore reflects lower operating rates at steel mills. However, demand for western coal continues to grow. Shipments of low sulfur western coal in U.S. hulls out of Superior, Wisconsin are 16 percent ahead of last year's pace, even more when compared to the 5-year average. While loadings of western coal out of Chicago, Illinois, are on par with last year, that segment of the trade is nearly 50 percent ahead of its 5-year average for the January-May timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 12 American corporations that operate 55 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 net 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 • OGLEBAY NORTON MARINE SERVICES COMPANY • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY  
SOO MARINE SUPPLY INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.