



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

June 14, 2011

### U.S.-Flag Lakers' Cargo Down 3.4 Percent in May

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (“lakers”) carried 9.5 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in May, an increase of 15.6 percent compared to April, but a decrease of 3.4 percent compared to a year ago. The fleet’s May “float” was also 9 percent below the month’s 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos for the steel industry decreased 3.7 percent compared to a year ago. Coal for power generation and steel production was essentially unchanged from a year ago – 2.1 million tons. Aggregate and fluxstone for the construction and steel industries slipped by 8 percent.

Through May U.S.-flag cargos stand at 23.6 million tons, an increase of 5 percent compared to the same point in 2010. Iron ore and coal have increased 6 and 10.3 percent respectively compared to a year ago, but limestone is 3.3 percent off last year’s pace.

Compared to the 5-year average for the January-May timeframe, U.S.-flag cargos are down 3.3 percent.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-flag vessels on the Great Lakes that 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.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://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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20325 Center Ridge Rd., Ste. 720 ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦ [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

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