



*The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes*

# Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2004

## **Limestone Total Also Up Noticeably**

### **Strong Demand For Ore Keeps U.S.-Flag Lakers Busy In October**

CLEVELAND--The U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet hauled 11.6 million net tons of dry-bulk cargo in October, an increase of 5.7 percent compared to a year ago. The October total is also virtually in line with the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos for the steel industry totaled 4.9 million net tons, an increase of 13.8 percent compared to a year ago, but a slight decrease from the month's 5-year average.

Coal shipments in U.S. bottoms fell slightly from a year ago, but were essentially on par with October's 5-year average.

The rebound in limestone cargos continued in October. The 3.6 million tons moved in October were roughly 8 percent ahead of both the corresponding period last year and the month's 5-year average.

Through October, U.S.-Flag carriage on the Great Lakes stands at 90.8 million net tons, an increase of nearly 20 percent compared to the same point in 2003, and 6.3 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the January-October timeframe. Increases for the major three commodities compared to a year ago and the 5-year average are as follows:

Iron Ore: +23.0% / +2.1%

Coal: +10.1% / +9%

Limestone: +25% / +12.2%

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 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. Telephone: (216) 861-0592 / Fax: (216) 241-8262 / E-Mail: [ggn@lcaships.com](mailto:ggn@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.