



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

May 22, 2007

Lack of Product Slows Lakes Stone Trade in April

Cleveland--Low inventories of limestone slowed the resumption of the trade on the Great Lakes in April. Shipments totaled 3.1 million net tons, a decrease of 19 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of 14 percent compared to the month's 5-year average. Inventories were low because mild weather toward the end of 2006 allowed quarries to ship most of their production. Since much limestone is washed before being shipped, quarrying cannot resume until the weather warms.

For the year, the Lakes limestone trade stands at 3.5 million net tons, a decrease of nearly 1 million tons compared to the same point in 2006. However, shipments are only 330,000 net tons behind the 5-year average for the January-April timeframe.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: APRIL 2002-2007 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports	2,684,092	1,902,851	3,073,382	3,082,615	2,845,006	2,485,315	2,917,589
Canadian Ports	549,520	420,036	752,962	736,667	978,224	609,875	687,482
Total	3,233,612	2,322,887	3,826,344	3,819,282	3,825,236	3,095,190	3,605,071

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2002-2007 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports	2,935,160	1,912,851	3,577,182	3,539,633	3,310,762	2,835,315	3,055,118
Canadian Ports	613,155	450,036	993,247	924,328	1,099,241	704,875	816,001
Total	3,548,315	2,362,887	4,570,429	4,463,961	4,412,009	3,540,190	3,871,119

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne, and Smelter Bay (all Ontario). Port Colborne is not expected to ship in 2007.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American corporations that operate 63 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 can transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways. More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

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-30-

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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 GLF GREAT LAKES FLEET CORP. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD.
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