



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

May 13, 2008

### Late Start Affects Lakes Limestone Trade in April

Cleveland---With harsh, winter-like weather extending into April, the Great Lakes limestone trade got off to a slow start. Shipments during the month totaled 3 million net tons, a decrease of 3 percent compared to a year ago, and 11 percent below the month's 5-year average. Since much limestone is rinsed prior to loading, the trade must await warmer temperatures before resuming full-scale.

### Dredging Crisis Still Has Stranglehold on Lakes

The dredging crisis continued to impact the trade in April. One U.S.-Flag Laker carried three limestone loads from a quarry in Michigan during the month, but the loads varied noticeably because of lack of dredging in the connecting channels and at discharge ports. The vessel's top cargo was 24,615 tons, yet her subsequent loads slipped first to 22,163 tons, and then 20,371 tons. Had the vessel been able to match its first load, another 6,700 tons of stone would have moved, enough product to provide the stone required to build 16 typical homes.

For the year, the Lakes limestone trade stands at 3.2 million net tons, a decrease of nearly 11 percent compared to the same point in 2007. However, shipments are nearly 20 percent behind the 5-year average for the January-April timeframe. That downturn also reflects continued sluggishness in the construction industry.

#### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: APRIL 2003-2008 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	1,902,851	3,073,382	3,082,615	2,845,006	2,485,315	2,347,463	2,677,834
Canadian Ports	420,036	752,962	736,667	978,224	609,875	656,100	699,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,322,887</b>	<b>3,826,344</b>	<b>3,819,282</b>	<b>3,825,236</b>	<b>3,095,190</b>	<b>3,005,571</b>	<b>3,377,387</b>

#### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2003-2008 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	1,912,851	3,577,182	3,539,633	3,310,762	2,835,315	2,506,716	3,035,149
Canadian Ports	450,036	993,247	924,328	1,099,241	704,875	656,100	834,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,362,887</b>	<b>4,570,429</b>	<b>4,463,961</b>	<b>4,412,009</b>	<b>3,540,190</b>	<b>3,164,824</b>	<b>3,869,494</b>

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 ceased shipping by vessel in 2006.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 16 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 more than 115 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](http://www.lcaships.com). Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications. Telephone: (216) 861-0592.

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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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Suite 915 • 614 West Superior Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383 • Fax: 216-241-8262 • Web site: [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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