



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2009

Slow Start for Lakes Stone Trade Mirrors Economy

Cleveland---The Great Lakes limestone trade has gotten off to one of its slowest starts in years. Shipments from U.S. and Canadian ports totaled only 1,551,490 tons in April, a decrease of nearly 50 percent from a year ago. Demand from the construction industry is extremely weak, and with many steel mills idled, shipments of fluxstone are off significantly.

Just one stone cargo – 16,372 tons – moved in March.

The only positive development is that rising water levels are allowing vessels to carry bigger loads, but even so, no cargo in April represented a full load. With 17 million cubic yards of sediment clogging Great Lakes ports and waterways, the dredging crisis will remain a factor for years to come. Removal of the backlogged sediment could have been accelerated this year, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers chose to allocate a mere 2 percent of the \$4.6 billion Congress gave it for dredging and navigation improvements under the stimulus package.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: APRIL 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	3,073,382	3,082,615	2,845,006	2,485,315	2,347,463	1,225,179	2,766,756
Canadian Ports	752,962	736,667	978,224	609,875	656,100	326,311	746,766
Total	3,826,344	3,819,282	3,825,236	3,095,190	3,005,571	1,553,499	3,513,522

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	3,577,182	3,539,633	3,310,762	2,835,315	2,506,716	1,241,551	3,153,921
Canadian Ports	993,247	924,328	1,099,241	704,875	656,100	326,311	875,558
Total	4,570,429	4,463,961	4,412,009	3,540,190	3,164,824	1,569,871	4,029,479

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 18 American companies that operate 65 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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 offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at 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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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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