



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2009

Demand for Limestone Remained Weak in May

Cleveland---With the construction and steel industries mired in recession, demand for limestone on the Great Lakes in May was down significantly. Shipments from U.S. and Canadian ports fell below 2.9 million tons, a decrease of 32 percent compared to a year ago. Compared to May's 5-year average, loadings were off 40 percent.

Although rising water levels are allowing vessels to carry more stone each trip, full loads remain unattainable because of the dredging crisis. Industry had hoped the economic stimulus package would provide funds to accelerate the removal of the 17 million cubic yards of sediment that clog ports and waterways, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers only allocated two percent of its stimulus dollars to the Great Lakes.

For the year, the Lakes limestone trade stands at 4.4 million tons, a decrease of 40 percent compared to a year ago, and only one-half of the 5-year average for the January-May timeframe.

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: May 2004-2009 and 5-Year Average
(net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	3,837,843	4,066,583	4,103,305	3,498,762	3,324,222	2,229,887	3,766,143
Canadian Ports	1,089,572	1,073,064	1,004,485	869,900	893,800	627,727	986,164
Total	4,929,419	5,141,652	5,109,796	4,370,669	4,220,030	2,857,614	4,752,307

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: Year-To-Date 2004-2009 and 5-Year Average
(net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	7,415,025	7,606,216	7,414,067	6,334,077	5,830,938	3,471,438	6,920,065
Canadian Ports	2,082,819	1,997,392	2,103,726	1,574,775	1,549,900	954,038	1,861,722
Total	9,499,848	9,605,613	9,519,799	7,910,859	7,382,846	4,425,476	8,781,787

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI. Kellys Island is currently not shipping. 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, including iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, and 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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