



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2008

Large Vessel Twice Forfeits 5,000 Tons to Dredging Crisis

Lakes Limestone Trade Up in June by Slimmest of Margins

Cleveland—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes from U.S. and Canadian ports totaled 4.4 million net tons in June. The increase – 11,558 tons – represents one cargo in a 600-foot-long vessel.

The dredging crisis continued to impact the trade. A large tug/barge unit that has carried more than 35,000 tons of limestone in a trip twice saw its load fall below 30,000 tons in June. The vessel's top load in June was only 34,036 tons.

For the year, the Lakes limestone trade stands at 11.8 million net tons, a decrease of 4.2 percent compared to the same point in 2007. Shipments are more than 10 percent behind the 5-year average for the first half of the year.

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: June 2003-2008 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports*	3,569,631	3,795,869	3,729,611	3,503,499	3,526,974	3,498,132	3,625,117
Canadian Ports**	931,808	912,385	1,028,905	971,684	855,600	896,000	940,077
Total	4,501,439	4,708,254	4,758,516	4,475,183	4,382,574	4,394,132	4,565,194

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: Year-To-Date 2003-2008 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	8,643,895	11,210,894	11,335,827	10,917,566	9,861,051	9,329,070	10,393,847
Canadian Ports	2,286,140	2,995,204	3,026,297	3,075,410	2,430,375	2,445,900	2,762,686
Total	10,930,035	14,206,098	14,362,124	13,994,982	12,293,433	11,774,970	13,156,533

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. Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications. Telephone: (216) 861-0592.

-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.

Suite 915 • 614 West Superior Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383 • Fax: 216-241-8262 • www.lcaships.com

The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ANDRIE, INC. • ARMSTRONG STEAMSHIP COMPANY • BELL STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC.
 GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
 KK INTEGRATED LOGISTICS • LAKE MICHIGAN CARRIAGE SERVICE, INC. • LAKES SHIPPING COMPANY, INC. • PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY
 SOO MARINE SUPPLY, INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.