



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

July 6, 2009

Great Lakes Limestone Trade Slumps Badly Again in June

Cleveland---The Great Lakes limestone traded continued to slump in June. Loadings totaled 3 million net tons, a decrease of 32 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of 34 percent compared to the month's 5-year average. Quarries that can load nearly a million tons a month when demand for aggregate and fluxstone is strong saw their shipments plunge by 40 to 60 percent.

The one bright spot – a record cargo for a vessel – was, in the final analysis, a reminder of the dredging crisis that plagues Great Lakes shipping. On June 26, the U.S.-Flag self-unloading barge *Great Lakes Trader* took on 35,457 tons of limestone at Presque Isle, Michigan. That is the largest stone cargo the vessel has ever loaded at that dock. The vessel was able to load deeper because of rising water levels.

However, if the Great Lakes navigation system was dredged to project dimensions, the *Trader* would have loaded nearly 37,000 tons of stone. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs to remove 17 million cubic yards of sediment from Great Lakes ports and waterways before the *Trader* and other U.S.-Flag lakers can carry full loads. Unfortunately, the Corps elected to all but ignore Great Lakes needs when Congress gave it \$4.6 billion from the stimulus package. The Corps directed only 2 percent of its stimulus dollars to Great Lakes projects.

For the year, the Great Lakes limestone trade stands at 7.4 million tons, a decrease of 37 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments are 44 percent below the 5-year average for the for the first half.

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports*	3,795,869	3,729,611	3,503,499	3,526,974	3,498,132	2,114,392	3,610,817
Canadian Ports**	912,385	1,028,905	971,684	855,600	896,000	878,533	932,915
Total	4,708,254	4,758,516	4,475,183	4,382,574	4,394,132	2,994,934	4,543,732

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	11,210,894	11,335,827	10,917,566	9,861,051	9,329,070	5,585,830	10,530,882
Canadian Ports	2,995,204	3,026,297	3,075,410	2,430,375	2,445,900	1,832,571	2,794,637
Total	14,206,098	14,362,124	13,994,982	12,293,433	11,774,970	7,420,410	13,325,519

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. LCA assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of LCA 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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