



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2007

Limestone Cargos Down 7.4 Percent in July

Cleveland---Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 4.4 million net tons in July, a decrease of 7.4 percent compared to a year ago, and 5.2 percent off the month's 5-year average. While demand is sluggish in some key markets, the trade continues to be hampered by lack of dredging throughout the Great Lakes navigation system. July limestone shipments also were impacted by a labor dispute that continued to idle three vessels that regularly haul the product.

Through July, limestone shipments stand at 16.7 million net tons, a decrease of 11 percent compared to a year ago, and 8 percent behind the 5-year average for the January-July timeframe. The comparison to a year ago does in part reflect low inventories at several quarries when shipping resumed in late March.

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: July 2002-2007 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports*	3,774,448	3,405,299	3,990,715	3,594,085	3,846,866	3,683,964	3,722,283
Canadian Ports**	898,971	908,945	1,124,277	874,921	933,553	741,400	948,134
Total	4,673,419	4,314,244	5,114,992	4,469,006	4,780,419	4,427,371	4,670,417

Great Lakes Limestone Trade: Year-To-Date 2002-2007 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports*	13,951,893	12,049,191	15,201,609	14,929,912	14,764,432	13,545,015	14,179,408
Canadian Ports**	3,243,440	3,195,085	4,119,090	3,901,218	4,008,963	3,171,775	3,693,560
Total	17,195,333	15,244,276	19,321,090	18,831,130	18,773,395	16,718,797	18,142,968

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 is not expected to ship in 2007.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 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 as much as 125 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.

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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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