



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

August 13, 2008

Rising Water Levels Fail to Boost Lakes Stone Trade in July

Cleveland—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 4.2 million net tons in July, a decrease of 4.8 percent compared to a year ago, and a drop of nearly 9 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

Although water levels are rising, not all ports are benefitting to the same degree. For example, a large integrated tug/barge unit was able to deliver 34,442 tons of stone to a customer at the southern end of Lake Michigan, yet when destined for Lake Superior docks, its cargos fell to 30,411 tons and 30,144 tons. The water level on Lake Superior has been rising quickly, but lack of dredging still forced the vessel to lightload by 4,000 tons or more.

For the year, the Lakes limestone trade stands at 16 million tons, a decrease of 4.4 percent compared to the same point in 2007. Shipments are more than 10 percent behind the 5-year average for the January-July timeframe.

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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports*	3,405,299	3,990,715	3,594,085	3,846,866	3,683,964	3,350,674	3,704,185
Canadian Ports**	908,945	1,124,277	874,921	933,553	741,400	863,774	916,619
Total	4,314,244	5,114,992	4,469,006	4,780,419	4,427,371	4,214,448	4,620,804

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*	12,049,191	15,201,609	14,929,912	14,764,432	13,545,015	12,679,744	14,098,031
Canadian Ports**	3,195,085	4,119,090	3,901,218	4,008,963	3,171,775	3,309,674	3,679,226
Total	15,244,276	19,321,090	18,831,130	18,773,395	16,718,797	15,989,418	17,777,257

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.

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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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