



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2008

August Limestone Trade on Lakes Totals 4.4 Million Tons

Cleveland—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 4.4 million net tons in August. While the total represents an increase of 12 percent compared to a year ago, shipments in August of 2007 were sluggish. The 5-year average is the better barometer, and in that regard, this August was off the pace by nearly 100,000 tons.

Although water levels have risen, the dredging crisis continued to limit the amount of stone vessels could deliver to customers. The largest cargo, 34,024 tons, was still about 600 tons less than the vessel has carried at other times. Other vessels' payloads reflected that some ports are in desperate need of dredging. Ships that were delivering 26,000 tons or more each trip to Lake Michigan destinations trimmed their loads by 3,000 tons when destined for certain ports on the shores of Lake Erie in Ohio.

For the year, the Lakes stone trade stands at 20.4 million tons, a slight decrease from the same point in 2007, but almost 2 million tons behind the 5-year average for the January-August timeframe.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: AUGUST 2003-2008 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	3,654,600	4,157,862	3,781,141	3,376,738	3,316,880	3,453,228	3,657,444
Canadian Ports	853,968	1,077,724	900,286	944,981	650,200	994,039	887,432
Total	4,508,568	5,235,586	4,681,427	4,321,719	3,969,087	4,447,267	4,544,876

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	15,703,791	19,359,471	18,711,053	18,141,170	16,861,895	16,132,972	17,755,476
Canadian Ports	4,049,053	5,197,205	4,801,504	4,953,944	3,821,975	4,303,713	4,564,736
Total	19,752,844	24,556,676	23,512,557	23,095,114	20,685,877	20,436,685	22,320,212

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: (440) 333-9996.

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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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