



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

October 17, 2008

### Lakes Limestone Trade Sluggish in September

Cleveland—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 3.8 million tons in September, a decrease of 3.6 percent compared to a year ago. The market force at work was weak demand from the construction industry. The dredging crisis also was a factor. The largest vessel routinely engaged in the limestone trade saw its top cargo still come up 730 tons short of what it has carried in a single trip. Other cargos delivered to ports in desperate need of dredging were nearly 4,500 tons below the vessel's best payload.

For the year, the Lakes stone trade stands at 24.2 million tons, a small decrease from the same point in 2007, but more than 2.3 million tons behind the 5-year average for the first three quarters.

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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	3,251,006	3,761,479	3,563,271	3,580,888	3,279,096	2,983,835	3,487,148
Canadian Ports	694,617	868,152	784,352	762,820	638,900	791,891	749,768
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,947,626</b>	<b>4,631,635</b>	<b>4,349,628</b>	<b>4,345,714</b>	<b>3,920,003</b>	<b>3,777,734</b>	<b>4,236,916</b>

#### **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	18,954,797	23,120,950	22,274,324	21,722,058	20,140,991	19,116,807	21,239,224
Canadian Ports	4,743,670	6,065,357	5,585,856	5,716,764	4,460,875	5,095,604	5,314,504
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,700,470</b>	<b>29,188,311</b>	<b>27,862,185</b>	<b>27,440,828</b>	<b>24,603,873</b>	<b>24,214,419</b>	<b>26,553,728</b>

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](http://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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