



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

November 7, 2008

Lakes Limestone Rallies in October, But Lightloads Still Hurt

Cleveland—Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 4.2 million net tons in October, an increase of 15 percent compared to a year ago, and only slightly behind the month's 5-year average. Had vessels been able to carry full loads, the 5-year average would have been easily achieved, but lack of dredging system wide again plagued the trade. One U.S.-Flag Laker saw its loads differ by as much as 3,600 net tons because of inadequate dredging of the channel in a receiving port.

For the year, the Lakes stone trade stands at 28.4 million net tons, a slight increase over the same point in 2007, but still nearly 2.5 million net tons behind the 5-year average for the January-October timeframe.

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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	3,767,578	3,797,009	3,437,981	3,368,513	3,060,631	3,299,547	3,486,342
Canadian Ports	875,158	906,608	851,909	723,419	557,300	854,773	782,879
Total	4,642,736	4,703,617	4,289,890	4,091,932	3,617,931	4,156,328	4,269,221

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	22,722,375	26,917,959	25,712,305	25,090,571	23,201,622	22,416,354	24,728,967
Canadian Ports	5,618,828	6,971,965	6,437,765	6,440,183	5,018,175	5,950,377	6,097,384
Total	28,343,206	33,891,928	32,152,075	31,532,760	28,221,804	28,368,739	30,826,351

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.

Suite 720 ♦ 20325 Center Ridge Rd. ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦ www.lcaships.com

The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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 GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
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