



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2009

Lakes Limestone Trade Down 11 Percent in November

Cleveland--Shipments of limestone from U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes ports totaled 3.1 million net tons in November, a decrease of 11 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings were down even more compared to the month's 5-year average: 17.3 percent.

The slump is entirely related to market conditions. Unlike many Novembers, vessels did not experience significant weather-related delays. For example, in November 2005, U.S.-Flag lakers were idled more than 5,000 hours by storms.

For the year, the Great Lakes limestone trade stands at 22.7 million tons, a decrease of 28.5 percent compared to the same point last year. Stone cargos are 34.2 percent behind the 5-year average for the January-November timeframe.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: NOVEMBER 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	3,243,308	2,685,445	3,317,234	3,026,967	2,823,726	2,577,680	3,019,336
Canadian Ports	882,439	542,085	829,427	672,700	648,235	509,875	714,977
Total	4,125,747	3,227,530	4,146,661	3,701,674	3,471,961	3,089,564	3,734,313

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	30,161,267	28,397,750	28,407,805	26,228,589	25,240,080	17,896,104	27,687,098
Canadian Ports	7,854,404	6,979,850	7,269,610	5,690,875	6,598,612	4,852,605	6,878,670
Total	38,017,675	35,379,605	35,679,421	31,921,471	31,838,692	22,750,718	34,565,768

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI. Kellys Island currently not shipping. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne, and Smelter Bay (all Ontario). Port Colborne ceased shipping by vessel in 2006 and Kellys Island has not shipped this year.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy, including iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, and coal for power generation. Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at www.lcaships.com. Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications. Telephone: (216) 861-0592.

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Report based on reliable data sources. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. LCA assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of LCA 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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