



# Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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## Stone Slump Adds to U.S.-Flag Lakers' Dredging Woes in September

Cleveland — A 12-percent drop in limestone cargos offset increases in iron ore and coal and held U.S.-Flag cargo movement on the Great Lakes in September under 11 million net tons. Weak demand from the construction industry has kept the stone trade sluggish all year. Stone loadings in U.S. hulls are down 1 million net tons compared to the same point in 2007.

Although rising water levels partially offset the chronic lack of dredging in the spring and summer, the Lakes begin their seasonal decline in September, and as a result, lightloading increased. The largest iron ore cargo was only 66,761 net tons. The largest coal cargo was 67,444 net tons. Had these vessels been able to carry full loads, they would have delivered more than 70,000 net tons.

For the year, U.S.-Flag carriage stands at 74.1 million net tons, a slight increase (298,000 net tons) compared to a year ago, but down about 1 percent (or 617,000 net tons) from the 5-year average for the first three quarters.

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 lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaship.com](http://www.lcaship.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil – Vice President – Corporate Communications (440-333-9996).

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*Information based on data from knowledgeable sources. 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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Suite 720 ♦ 20325 Center Ridge Rd. ♦ Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 ♦ Fax: 440-333-9993 ♦ [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

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

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