



Channels in Lake St. Clair, MI

Project Features

- One of Great Lakes connecting channels. Two-way 14.5 mile vessel track located in the expansive shallow basin of Lake St. Clair.
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 5 Aug 1886, 13 Jul 1892, 13 Jun 1902, 2 Mar 1919, 3 Jul 1930, 30 Aug 1945, 21 Mar 1956
- Deep draft commercial project
- Project depth is 27.5 feet
- Five year average (2009-2013) tonnage of 47M traverses these channels annually.
- Approximately 14.5 miles of federal channels
- Dickinson Island Confined Disposal Facility has provided a suitable placement site for all material dredged from the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair since 1980 and is anticipated to have sufficient capacity for at least 25 more years.
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, and a majority of Great Lakes shipping interests.

Project Requirements

- The upper end of the channel near the mouth of the St. Clair River requires maintenance dredging on a 5 to 10 year cycle of approximately 75,000 to 150,000 cubic yards.
- The channels were last dredged in 2012 and there are plans to dredge in 2017.
- Occasional obstruction removal is required by the government floating plant.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the channel were closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail or truck. This would increase annual emissions rates by over 1.6B lbs of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$25M due to increased railroad related accidents, or by \$51M due to increased trucking related accidents.



- Light loading; loss of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth results in increased transportation costs of between \$5.84M and \$21.3M annually.
- Access between Lake Huron and the Detroit River would be cut off.
- Key component of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system. Disruption of service would have severe maritime and economic impacts.

Transportation Importance

- Great Lakes connecting channel between the St. Clair River and the Detroit River.
- This project is vital to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway shipping industry.
- Commodities transported through these channels include coal, iron ore, limestone, wood pulp, petroleum products, salt, and other general cargo.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, 2016 and 2017
Channels in Lake St. Clair, MI - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY15 Requirement	FY15 Appropriation	FY16 Requirement	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 Requirement	FY17 President's Budget
Project Condition Surveys	179	179	180	180	180	180
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package					1,400	1,400
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package						
CDF Repairs						
TOTAL	179	179	180	180	1,580	1,580

Congressional Interests

- Representative Candice S. Miller R-MI-10
- Representative Sander M. Levin D-MI-9
- Representative Brenda Lawrence D-MI-14
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI