



Detroit River, MI

Project Features

- One of the Great Lakes connecting channels, flowing south from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie.
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 13 Jun 1902, 3 Mar 1905, 25 Jun 1910, 4 Mar 1913, 2 Mar 1907, 2 Mar 1919, 3 Jul 1930, 30 Aug 1935, 26 Aug 1937, 2 Mar 1945, 24 Jul 1946, 17 May 1950, 21 Mar 1956, 14 Jul 1960, 13 Aug 1986
- Deep draft commercial project
- Project depths vary from 25 to 29 feet
- Five year average (2009-2013) tonnage of 47M traverses the Detroit River annually
- Total of 76 miles of federal channels, including up-bound and down-bound channels
- For year 2013, 13.0M tons of material shipped and received in the Port of Detroit.
- Ranked 4th among the Great Lakes Harbors for the Port of Detroit
- 43rd leading U.S. port
- Contains water level compensating dikes
- Material dredged from the Detroit River is placed in the Pointe Mouille confined disposal facility located in Lake Erie.
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Carmeuse Lime, Detroit Bulk Storage Inc., Detroit Steel, Edward C. Levy Co., J.W. Westcott Co., Harridon Terminal Inc., Holcim Inc., Koenig Fuel & Supply, Lafarge North America, Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC, Michigan Marine Terminal, Morton Salt, Motor City Materials, Nicholson Terminal and Dock Co., Severstal North America, St. Marys Cement, the Rockdock LLC, and U.S. Steel Corp.

Project Requirements

- Obstruction removal is required on an annual basis.
- Requires periodic maintenance dredging (on a 1 to 2 year cycle) of approximately 300,000 cubic yards; the river was last dredged in 2015 and is planned to be dredged in 2017.



- Compensating dikes require periodic maintenance.
- Periodic maintenance of the CDF is required and is planned for 2016.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the channel were closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by over 1.75B lbs of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$26M due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$54M due to increased trucking related accidents.
- Reduction of bulk commodities that pass through the Port of Detroit that generate \$17.8B annually in business revenue while supporting 82,961 direct, indirect, and induced jobs that produce over \$920M per year in personal income in transportation and commodity related industries.
- Light loading; loss of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth in the Detroit River results in increased transportation costs of between \$5.89M and \$21.5M annually.
- Disruption of service would have severe maritime and economic impacts.

Transportation Importance

- Key component of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system.
- Commodities transported through these channels include coal, iron ore, crude materials, manufactured goods, chemicals, steel products, petroleum products, food and farm products, as well as other general cargo, including overseas cargo.
- Great Lakes connecting channel between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.
- The Detroit River is the home port of the U.S. Coast Guard’s 140 foot long ice breaking cutter, Bristol Bay.

➤ Located along the banks of the Detroit River is the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Detroit Station, which is responsible for the operations of subordinate commands including: search and rescue, law enforcement, aids to navigation, ice breaking, ice rescue and maritime homeland security.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, 2016 and 2017
Detroit River, 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	1,048	1,048	1,050	1,050	1,070	1,070
Strike Removal	2,890	2,890	2,890	2,890	2,640	2,640
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	1,500	1,500			1,500	1,500
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package	1,700		1,700		1,700	
CDF Fill Management Activities	500	500	1,500	1,500	0	
Repair Compensating Dikes – by Gov. Floating Plant	550				0	
EGIS Development			20		20	
Other Business Lines						
Environmental Stewardship	31	31	35	35	37	31
Update Detroit Area Office Master Plan	31		30		31	
TOTAL	8,250	5,969	7,225	5,475	6,998	5,241

Congressional Interests

- Representative Debbie Dingell D-MI-12
- Representative John Conyers Jr. D-MI-13
- Representative Brenda Lawrence D-MI-14
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI