



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: 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.
- 70 to 80 million tons of commerce traverse 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, Lake Carriers' Association, 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 2010.
- Maintenance dredging is planned for 2012 to eliminate shoaling currently present within the channels.
- Occasional obstruction removal is required by Government floating plant.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Bulk commodities that pass through the channel generate over \$2.9B annually in direct revenue while supporting nearly 14,000 jobs and generating over \$638M per year in personal income.



- If the channel was closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail or truck. This would increase annual emissions rates by over 1.3M tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$38.9M due to increased railroad related accidents, or by \$68M 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 \$1.6M and \$9.5M 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) 2011, 2012 and 2013
Channels in Lake St. Clair, MI - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY11 Requirement	FY11 Work Plan	FY12 Requirement	FY12 Appropriation	FY13 Requirement	FY13 President's Budget
Project Condition Surveys	167	165	172	169	170	170
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	950	939	550	539		
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package	1,000		1,000			
CDF Repairs					850	
TOTALS	2,117	1,104	1,722	708	1,020	170

Congressional Interests

- Representative Candice S. Miller R-MI-10
- Representative Sander M. Levin D-MI-12
- Senator Carl Levin D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI