



Channels in Straits of Mackinac, MI

Project Features

- One of the Great Lakes connecting channels; the Straits of Mackinac are located between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas.
- Authorization: Adopted by Acts of 30 August 1935 and 23 March 1956
- Deep draft commercial project that provides for a 1,250 feet wide channel between Mackinac Island and Round Island; and for removal of the Poe Reef shoal.
- Project depth is 30.0 feet
- 70 to 80 million tons of commerce traverse these channels annually
- Approximately 3,500 feet in length
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Lake Carriers' Association, and a majority of Great Lakes shipping interests.

Project Requirements

- The channels were dug in hard bottom areas of the Straits of Mackinac; consequently, they require infrequent maintenance. It is anticipated that all future maintenance will consist of occasional strike removal operations.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Significant loss of jobs locally, regionally, and internationally.
- Bulk commodities that pass through the channel generate \$2.3B annually in direct revenue while supporting over 11,000 jobs and generating \$510M 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 528,600 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$31.8M due to increased railroad related accidents, or by \$23.7M due to increased trucking related accidents.



- Light loading; loss of channel depth results in increased transportation costs.
- Access between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes 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

- Key connecting channel between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- This project is vital to both domestic and international maritime interests using the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.
- 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 Straits of Mackinac, 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						
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package						
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package						
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0

Congressional Interests

- Representative Dan Benishek R-MI-1
- Senator Carl Levin D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI