



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 and connect Lake Michigan with Lake Huron.
- 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 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.
- 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) 2012, 2013 and 2014
Channels in Straits of Mackinac, MI - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY12 Requirement	FY12 Appropriation	FY13 Requirement	FY13 President's Budget	FY14 Requirement	FY14 President's Budget
Project Condition Surveys						
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