



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Detroit District

HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES

Mackinaw City Harbor, Michigan



Harbor Location: Mackinaw City Harbor is located on the western shore of Lake Huron along the southern channel limit of the Straights of Mackinac.

Authority: River & Harbor Acts of 15 January 1965.

Project Description: Mackinaw City Harbor is a shallow draft recreational harbor with approximately 630 feet of rubble mound breakwaters including 300 feet of wave absorbing slope protection constructed in 1976.

Traffic: No commerce reported

Transportation Importance: This project serves as an important Harbor of Refuge and an important harbor to recreational navigation interests. It is also the home port to three ferry lines that serve Mackinac Island with over 500,000 passengers using the ferries on an annual basis. Maintenance of the federal navigation channel supports the use of the Mackinaw City Municipal Marina, operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Congressional Interest:

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

Current Condition Assessment: **C**



Date of Site Visit: 15 August 2013

Summary of Impact: Overtopping waves could have an immediate impact on the marinas located inside the breakwater. Any significant wave activity within the harbor could damage vessels moored at the marinas. Presently, the marinas within the harbor are sufficiently protected, but could be exposed to greater wave heights under the right conditions. In both cases, an increased wave climate could result in damage to docked vessels and the docks themselves. Other shore structures subject to inundation are the Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry, the Icebreaker Mackinac Maritime Museum, Shefler Marine, and the Mackinaw City Wawatam Park pump station. In the event the structures are damaged and/or destroyed during a storm event, commercial properties within the zone of influence of the Mackinaw City Harbor would also likely be impacted. To the north, the village-owned park and to the south, numerous hotels and restaurants along the shoreline would also be impacted.

Examples of Protected Infrastructure:



1. Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum: The museum honors the icebreaker that was decommissioned in 2006. The museum is open from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm daily for public tours and group events.



2. Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry: Shepler's is one of three ferries that provide passenger transportation to Mackinac Island, and also offers services for groups and wedding parties, as well as charters, cruises, and a full range of marine and freight services.



3. Shepler's Marine: Adjacent to the City Marina, Shepler Marine is a marine repair facility, it offers everything from simple oil changes and maintenance to complete re-powering and refinishing.



4. Wawatam Park: The park is located next the Mackinaw City Dock. It provides picnic areas and grill, a playground, and a great view of the Mackinac Bridge. The Mackinaw City Wawatam Park Sewage Pumping Station is also located on site.



Potential Impact Area: The following graphic displays property parcels that could be impacted within various zones defined by different setbacks from the shoreline behind existing Federal coastal structures. Values are based on real property tax assessments from these parcels, and don't reflect any detailed coastal zone damage assessments. Figures simply reflect property values at various setbacks.

