



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES Muskegon Harbor, Michigan



**Harbor Location:** Muskegon Harbor is located on the east shore of Lake Michigan, 114 miles northeast of Chicago, IL.

**Authority:** River & Harbor Acts of 13 Jun 1902, 3 Mar 1935, 30 Aug 1935, 23 Oct 1962.

**Project Description:** Muskegon Harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor with over 6,200 feet of structures including breakwaters, piers, and revetments, and there is approximately 6,500 feet of maintained federal channel.

**Traffic:** 2,235,797 tons (5-Year average, 2004-2008)

**Transportation Importance:** Muskegon Harbor is a major receiving port on the Great Lakes for commodities including sand, gravel, limestone, cement, concrete, and coal. Muskegon is also home to the Lake Express car ferry.

### Congressional Interest:

- Representative Bill Huizenga, R-MI-2
- Senator Carl Levin D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI

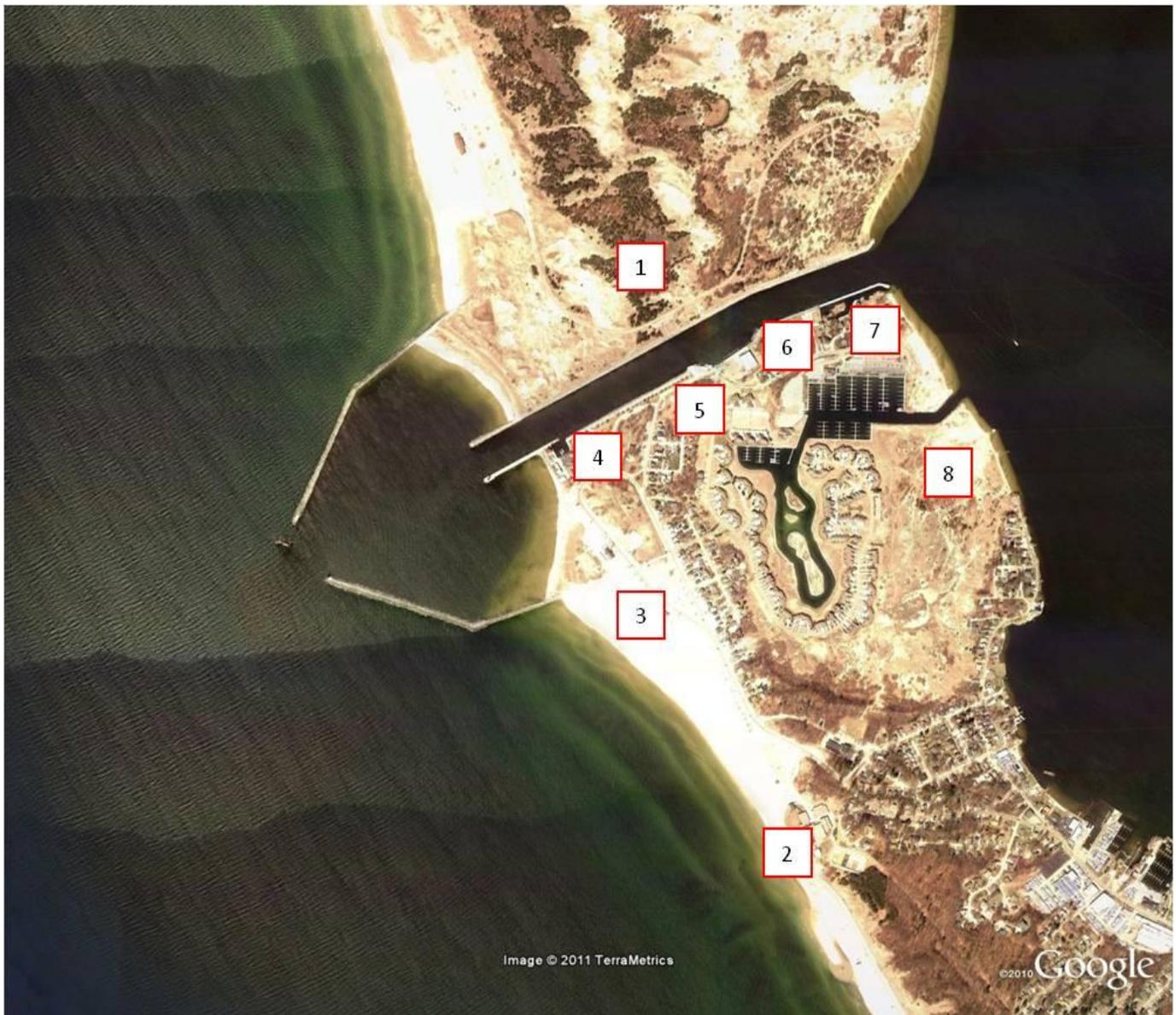
**Current Condition Assessment:** **C** (North Breakwater Head and South Connector rated “D”)



**Date of Site Visit:** 17 August 2010

**Summary of Impact:** : The US Coast Guard Station, the NOAA Lake Michigan Field Station, and the Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum are all considered critical structures since they are located immediately adjacent to the federal structure. The museum includes the USS Silversides, which is a WWII submarine floating in the channel. Any breach or failure in the federal structure could cause damage to facilities or vessels, some of which are considered priceless. A failure of the federal structure near the Coast Guard station on the west end of the channel could possibly suspend vital search and rescue operations from this station.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. Muskegon State Park:** Muskegon State Park is located on the north side of the Muskegon Harbor. The state park has a beach and dunes on the west side of the channel and a campground with 139 sites on the east end of the channel.



**2. City of Muskegon Water Filtration Plant:** The water filtration plant was completed in January 2006 at a cost of approximately \$16.3 million. This facility is located approximately 0.75 miles to the south of the Muskegon Harbor and serves the City of Muskegon and the surrounding communities.



**3. Pere Marquette Park:** Pere Marquette Park is a City of Muskegon owned beach located south of the coastal structure. The park has a restaurant, snack bar, playground, and bathrooms.



**4. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Lake Michigan Field Office and United States Coast Guard Station:** The NOAA Lake Michigan Field Station and Coast Guard Station are located next to each other and share the same docking area for their vessels. The NOAA station facility is comprised of 3 buildings and is over 100 years old. It serves as NOAA’s base of operations for Great Lakes research and is the home port for all their Great Lakes research vessels.

The U.S. Coast Guard Station provides search and rescue operations and Federal Maritime Law Enforcement to the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Currently, there are 21 active members and 4 reserve members of the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at this facility. A 30 foot utility boat and a 16 foot skiff are located at this facility for shallow water responses.



**5. Margaret Drake Elliot Park:** The Margaret Drake Elliot Park is a City of Muskegon owned, channel-front park on the south side of Muskegon Channel. This park has a playground, restroom facility, a picnic pavilion, and over 25 picnic tables.



**6. Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum (GLNMM) and USS Silversides:** The GLNMM is a new 16,500 sq ft. building located on the south side of the channel. This museum has offices, a library, theater, education center, and a conference area. The GLNMM also has two historic vessels including the USS Silversides and the USCGC McLane. The USS Silversides is a WWII submarine and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1972 for its successful patrols in WWII. The USCGC is a 1927 ship that was originally used in the fight against prohibition and was stationed off the coast of Alaska during WWII. The USS Silversides and USCGC McLane are floating in the Muskegon Channel.



**7. Channel Front Homes:** More than 15 homes are located on the south channel front. On the east end of the channel there is approximately a 100 foot wide separation between the federal structure and the revetment protection of the homes.



**8. Harbor Town Marina:** Harbor Town Marina is a privately owned marina built in 1983. This marina has 242 slips and several transient slips, and the docks are pre-stressed concrete on steel pilings.



**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.

