



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Detroit District

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES

### Port Austin Harbor, Michigan



**Harbor Location:** Port Austin Harbor is located at the tip of the thumb of Michigan, about 80 miles northeast of Saginaw, MI

**Authority:** Rivers & Harbors Act of 2 Mar 1945.

**Project Description:** Port Austin Harbor is a shallow draft recreational harbor with two breakwaters totaling approximately 3,400 feet in length. The entrance channel is dredged to 12 feet while the inner harbor basin is dredged to 10 feet. The federally maintained channel does not go further than the mouth of Bird Creek. The west breakwater consists of steel sheet cells filled with stone and capped with bituminous material and concrete and is roughly 1,925 feet in length. The east breakwater is a rubblemound structure about 1,500 feet in length.

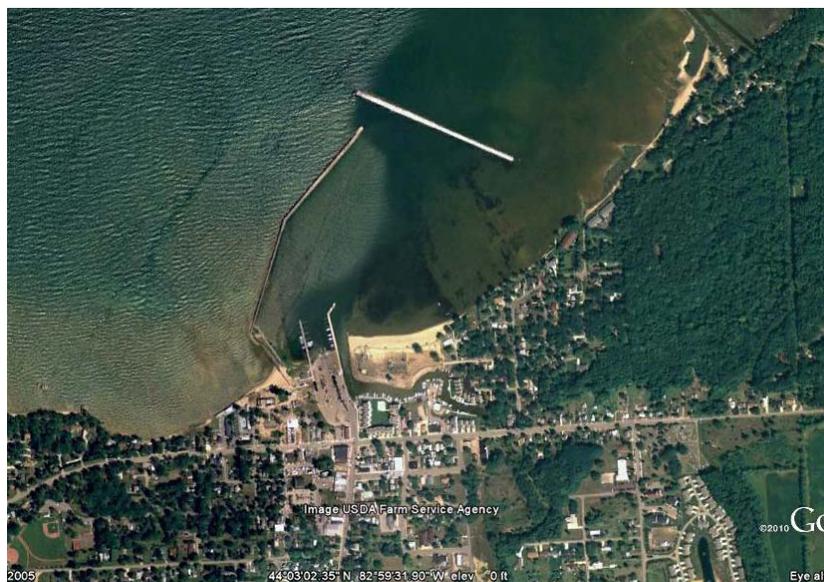
**Traffic:** No commerce reported.

**Transportation Importance:** This project serves as an important Harbor of Refuge, supports charter fishing and recreational navigation interests, and has 100 recreational boat slips. The local community has established significant infrastructure around the harbor facilities that generates income from harbor users and visitors to the area.

#### Congressional Interest:

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

**Current Condition Assessment:** **B**



**Date of Site Visit:** 4 June 2010

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from the north. North-northeast waves could overtop the unattached east breakwater and have an immediate impact on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Marina. The overtopping wave activity could also propagate up Bird Creek and cause damages to the numerous marinas and businesses along the creek. Similarly, winds from the north-northwest direction could generate waves that would overtop the west breakwater and have a negative impact on MNDR marina, County Park and various businesses located on Bird Creek. Presently, there are two marinas and a county park on Bird Creek that are partially 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 wave damage if the Port Austin structure were to fail are numerous private charter boat companies located within the harbor, the Port Austin Water Treatment Plant, and a few condominium complexes.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Marina:** The marina is open for the boating season which extends from 7 May to 19 September. The marina consists of 33 transient slips, 16 seasonal slips, and employs 9 workers. The marina is open daily from 6 am to 9 pm. Daily dockage rates range from \$24 to \$87. Amenities include: boat launch, water, electricity (30 amp), restrooms, showers, gasoline, diesel, pump-out, motor oil, ice, public phone, day-use dockage, grills/picnic tables, and laundry.



**2. M&D Marine:** Is a full-service marina. The marina provides services for outboards, inboards, and jet skis. M&D Marine has a boat launch that will accommodate up to 30-foot vessels and is open daily 9 am to 5 pm. Numerous private fishing charters also operate out of the marina.



**3. Bird Creek County Park:** Is a seven-acre park located in downtown Port Austin on Bird Creek. It has a ¼-mile long boardwalk with picnic areas. The park features a sandy beach and large picnic pavilion with grills adjacent to a playground with restrooms and shower facilities.



**4. Fishing Charters:** Both the Port Austin Area and Team Mermaid Fishing Charters are located within Port Austin Harbor. They offer daily excursions on Lake Huron specializing in salmon, lake trout, walleye, and steelhead fishing.



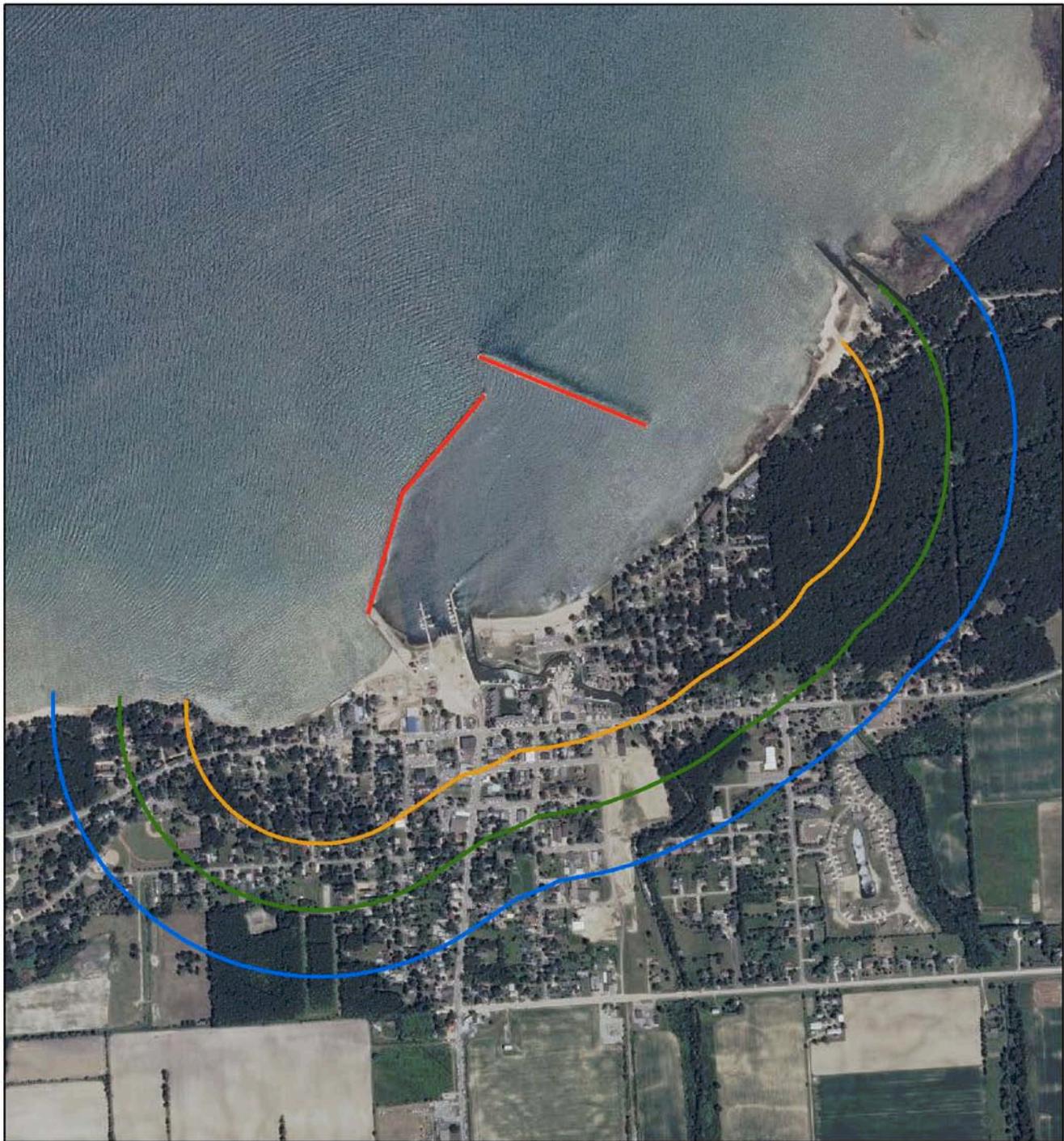
**5. Port Austin Water Treatment Plant:** Is located in downtown Port Austin. The water treatment plant sits on a 15,600 square-foot site surrounded by a community park and private property. It has a capacity of 1.9 MGD and serves current customers in the Village of Port Austin, Port Austin Township and the City of Bad Axe.



**6. Harbour Pointe Condominiums/Marina:** The complex offers luxury waterfront condominiums with a view of Lake Huron. Amenities include a private marina with 20 dedicated boat slips and an outdoor pool facility.



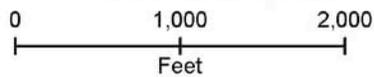
**Potential Impact Area:** The following graphic displays property parcels that could be impacted within various zones defined by different setbacks from the shoreline behind existing Federal coastal structures. Within 1,000 feet from the shoreline (1,000 ft buffer) the MDNR Marina, M&D Marine, Bird Creek County Park, Port Austin Water Treatment Plant, Harbour Pointe Condominiums/Marina and multiple fishing charters would be affected.



## PORT AUSTIN HARBOR

Port Austin, MI

-  Federal Structure
-  Shoreline\_1000\_ft\_buffer
-  Shoreline\_1500\_ft\_buffer
-  Shoreline\_2000\_ft\_buffer



Imagery Source- NAIP 2010



Created August 2012- by T. Crockett- Buffalo District