



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

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES

### Tawas Bay Harbor, Michigan



**Harbor Location:** Tawas Bay Harbor is located on the west shore of Lake Huron about 45 miles northeast of the mouth of the Saginaw River.

**Authority:** River & Harbor Acts of 13 August 1968.

**Project Description:** Tawas Bay Harbor is a shallow draft recreational harbor with more than 1,750 feet of breakwaters.

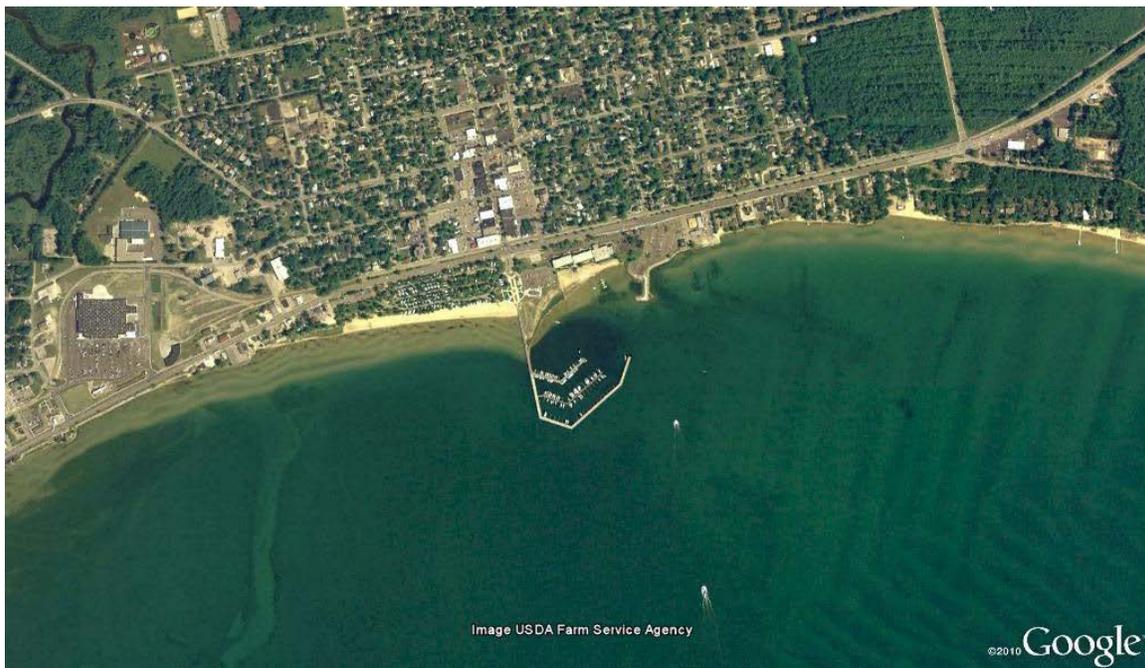
**Traffic:** No commerce reported.

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

#### **Congressional Interest:**

- Representative Dan Kildee D-MI-5
- Senator Carl Levin D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI

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



**Date of Site Visit:** 8 July 2010

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from the south direction. Overtopping waves would have an immediate impact on the marina located inside the breakwaters. Any significant wave activity within the harbor could damage vessels moored at the marinas. Presently, the MDNR marina within the harbor and charter boats 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. In the event the structures are damaged and/or destroyed during a storm event, commercial properties within the zone of influence of the Tawas Bay Harbor could also be impacted. Numerous parks, hotels, and resort-related businesses that are located along the shoreline would likely be impacted.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. East Tawas State Dock:** The marina is open for the boating season which extends from 20 May to 25 September. It consists of floating docks with 30 seasonal slips, 110 transient slips. The marina is open daily from 7 am to 9 pm. Daily dockage rates range from \$24 to \$177. Amenities at the marina include water, electricity, restrooms, showers, gasoline, diesel, pump out, ice, boat launch and a playground with picnic tables and grills.



**2. Charity Island Excursions:** The privately-owned Charity Island Excursions offers daily excursions from the East Tawas Dock. Trips include tours of the historic Gravelly Shoal Light and light keepers home.



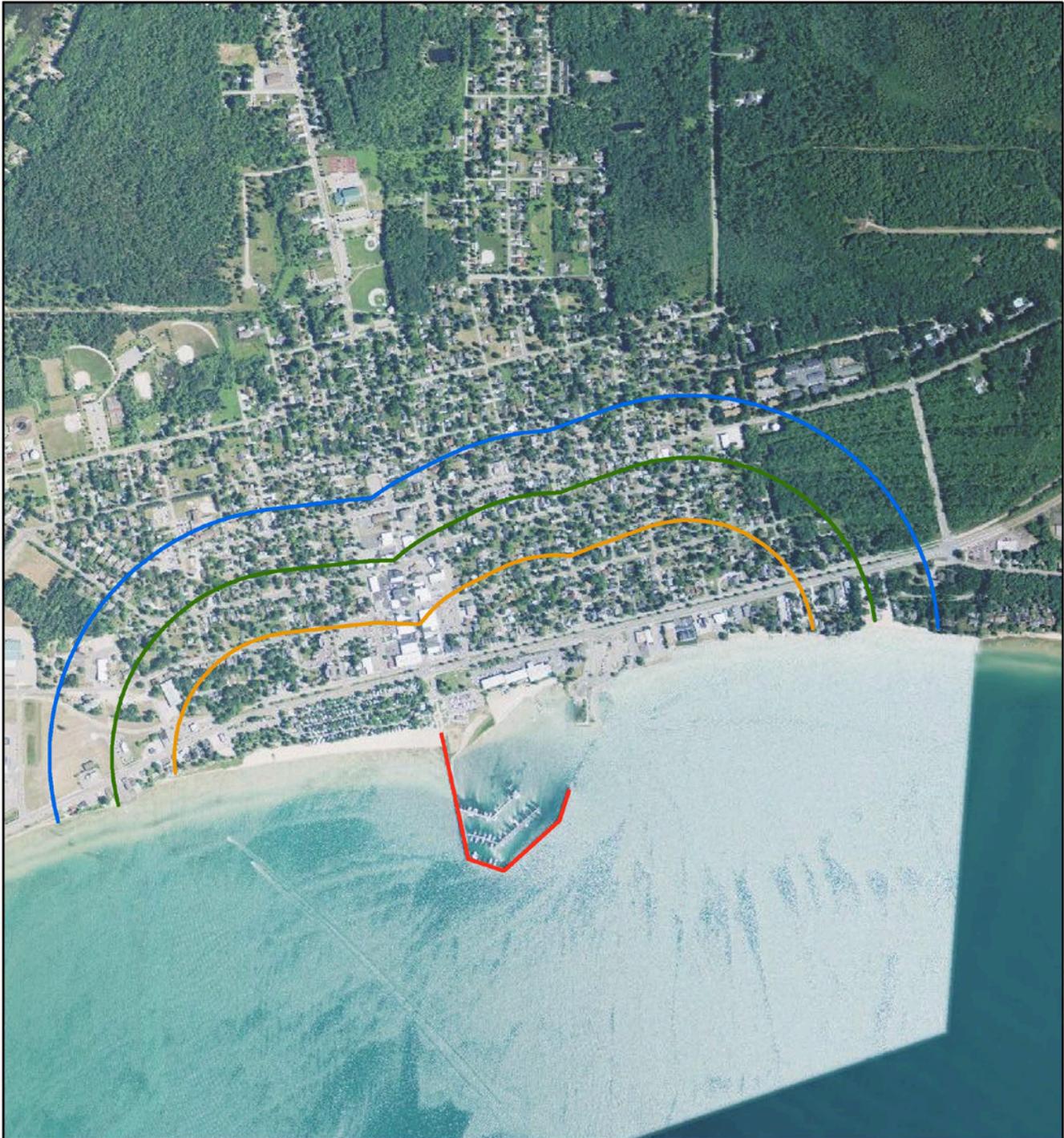
**3. East Tawas City Park:** This Park offers 174 modern campsites with full hook-ups, picnic tables, and an updated modern bath house with hot showers. A playground and picnic area are also available adjacent to 1,600 feet of public beach on Tawas Bay.



**4. Tawas Bay Beach Resort:** Located adjacent to the East Tawas State Dock. The resort has 103 beach-front rooms with 800 feet of sandy beach. Amenities include a seasonal bar and restaurant on the beach, pool, Jacuzzi, and sauna.



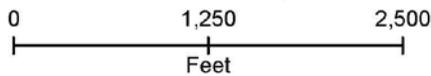
**Potential Impact Area:** The following graphic displays property parcels that could be impacted within various zones defined by different setbacks from the shoreline behind existing Federal coastal structures. Within 1,000 feet from the shoreline (1,000 ft buffer) all four of the properties that were identified (above) in this report would be affected by a failure of the breakwater.



### TAWAS BAY HARBOR East Tawas, MI



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



Imagery Source- NAIP 2012

