

5. PROJECTION OF FUTURE CONDITIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the absence of a Management Plan, there would continue to be no Dredged Material Disposal Facility (DMDF) available for placement of dredged material. The lack of dredging has resulted in shoal buildup, which reduces channel depth, forcing ships to light load (partially load) or discontinue transit into the upper Saginaw River. Also, shoaled channels cause more sediment resuspension from ship hulls and prop wash. Light loading reduces draft, which allows the vessels to clear the shoals, but increases per-unit shipping costs, which consequently increases costs to industry and the consumer. Appendix C, entitled "Economic Assessment" presents support for continued Operation & Maintenance (O&M) dredging.