



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES Huron Harbor, OH



**Harbor Location:** Huron Harbor is located on the southern shore of Lake Erie in the city of Huron, OH about 55 miles west of Cleveland, OH.

**Authority:** River & Harbor Acts of 1905, 1919, 1935, and 1962.

**Project Description:** Originally authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1905, Huron Harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor. Protective structures consist of a west Pier constructed of laid up stone and steel sheet pile with a concrete cap and an East laid up stone breakwater with a combined length of 4,793'.

**Traffic:** 898,682 tons (5-Year average, 2005-2009).

**Transportation Importance:** Major regional receiving port on the Great Lakes for commodities including iron ore, limestone and grain.

### Congressional Interest:

- Representative Marcy Kaptur D-OH-9
- Senator Rob Portman R-OH
- Senator Sherrod Brown D-OH

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



**Date of Site Visit:** 15 June 2010.

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from the northwest to east direction. Failure of any of the protective structures would result in increased wave action in the river leading to damage to the vessels and facilities located along the river. Increased wave action would also limit operations at the Huron Ore Docks and the Huron Lime Co. and could cause flooding and damage to facilities under high wave conditions. The public beach would also suffer erosion and damage. Deposition around both the west pier and east breakwater suggests that failure would also result in increased shoaling in the channel, increasing dredging needs and limiting access.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



1. **Nickel Plate Beach:** Municipally run beach on land owned by Norfolk-Southern Corp. Picnic shelter, volleyball courts and playground. East Breakwater protects beach from west - northwest wave action, allowing for sand deposition. Breakwater failure would be imminently detrimental to beach operation.



2. **Huron Lime, Inc.:** Privately owned industry involved with limestone processing, employing 30. Receives limestone via ship from Presque Isle, Michigan. Around 500,000 tons of raw materials handled annually, with about half as much finish product produced and shipped to local area via truck. Coal for use as an energy source is also brought in by ship from the Sandusky Coal Dock. The wharf is able to accommodate vessels up to 1,000' in length. The breakwaters are performing well to provide protection when ships come in. A failure would limit operations and could cause damage to plant infrastructure under high wave conditions.



3. **Huron Ore Docks:** Privately owned industry involved with coal shipping, employing 2. Receives coal via ship from Cleveland Cliffs, MN. Around 300,000 tons of material handled annually. All coal leaves by train for Wheeling, Pitts Steel and Steubenville, OH. Wharf is able to accommodate vessels up to 1,645' in length. The breakwaters are performing well to provide protection when ships come in. A failure would limit operations and could cause damage.



4. **City of Huron – Former ConAgra Plant:** 19.8 acre parcel formerly occupied by ConAgra foods which ceased operations on site in 2005. Purchased by Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 2006, with title given to the City of Huron. Buildings to be demolished and site presently has public boating and fishing access with launch ramps, parking and docks. Future use to include restaurants, retail, condominiums and green-space.



5. **State of Ohio Boat Launch:** State owned public boat launch, with restrooms and parking area. Increased wave action in river would limit operations.



6. **Harbor North:** Privately owned marina with 110 floating wood, steel and plastic slips able to accommodate vessels up to 45'. The annual rate is \$92/foot. Electric, water and internet available at all slips. Other amenities include a 45 ton crane, 112 vessels stored in dry racks, pumpout, showers, restrooms, rigging shop, paint shop, ships store and a mechanic on duty. Structures include the rack building, the paint shop, the mechanical shop and a 2 story main building. Breakwater failure would cause increased wave action in harbor, causing damage to structures and vessels.



7. **Huron Yacht Club:** Private yacht club offering fuel and membership dockage.



8. **Huron Municipal Boat Basin:** Municipally owned marina with 125 (50 seasonal, 75 transient) floating wood and steel slips able to accommodate vessels up to 50'. Electric and water available at all slips. Other amenities include pumpout, showers, restrooms, picnic shelters, grills and an amphitheater. The harbor already experiences wave action under an east-northeast wind, breakwater failure would cause increased wave action in harbor, causing damage to structures and vessels.



9. **USACE CDF:** Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) constructed by USACE in 1975 to contain dredged material from Huron Harbor that is not suitable for placement in the open lake. The CDF has an area of 63 acres, and a total capacity of 2,600,000 cubic yards.

**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.

