



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Les Cheneaux Islands Channels, MI

Harbor Features

- Archipelago of 36 islands along the northern shore of Lake Huron between Straits of Mackinac, Drummond Island, & North Channel areas
- Authorization: by Chief of Engineers 15 Mar 1967, pursuant to Section 107 of the 1960 Rivers & Harbors Act
- Shallow draft recreational harbor
- Project depth 7 feet
- Over 7.5 miles of maintained federal channel and multiple harbors
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Local boatyards and marinas, Michigan Boating Industries Association, U.S. Forest Service (Government Island), Michigan DNR (State lands-island property), land preserves (TNC, LTC Leopold, etc.), marine historical properties, charter boats, ferry operations, tribal/commercial/recreational anglers, as well as residential island population
- Provides protected passage for travelers from Mackinac Island to the St. Marys River and a harbor of refuge for tribal members, voyageurs, anglers, ferries, water liveries, and recreational boaters

Project Requirements

- Requires maintenance dredging of approximately 80,000 cubic yards every 20 years
- The harbor was last dredged in 2010 with FY09 funds, when 66,700 cubic yards of material were removed.
- Maintenance dredging is not required.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Loss of recreational and charter fishing in the area, as well as loss of local revenue
- Loss of only means of access to channel of islands and homesteads
- USCG vessel and other large vessels and ferries cannot safely navigate



Transportation Importance

- Subsistence harbor – waterborne transportation is sole infrastructure linkage between island residential homes and mainland community services
- Multiple harbors in this project serve as harbors of refuge. The project also supports commercial and recreational navigation interests.
- The local region has established significant infrastructure around the channels which generates income from users and area visitors.
- The channels provide subsistence access to approximately 900 island homes and barge/workboat service for the transportation of supplies.
- Supports approximately 2,800 recreational boat slips throughout the 36 Les Cheneaux Islands
- Channels serve as staging point for emergency services at the Cedarville and Hessel Harbors

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2023, and 2024
 Les Cheneaux Islands Channels, MI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY22 Requirement	FY22 Appropriation	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 President’s Budget
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Congressional Interests

- Representative Jack Bergman R-MI-1
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI