



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Detroit River, MI

River Features

- One of the Great Lakes Connecting Channels. It is 31 miles long, flowing south from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie.
- Deep draft commercial harbor.
- Depths varying from 21.0 (a portion of upbound channel) to 29.5 feet.
- 42nd leading U.S. port with 16.9M tons of material shipped or received in 2004.
- Ranked 4th among the Great Lakes Ports.
- Contains various water level and compensating dikes and structures.
- A total of 76 miles of Federal channels.
- Pointe Mouille confined disposal facility is located in Lake Erie
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Lake Carriers Association, Nicholson Terminal and Dock Co., Harridon Terminal, Inc., Detroit Bulk Storage, Inc., J.W. Westcott Co., Michigan Marine Terminal, various railroad and trucking companies.

Project Needs

- Requires periodic maintenance dredging (on a 2 to 3 year cycle) of approx. 100,000 cy.
- Obstruction removal is required on an annual basis.
- The compensating dikes need repairs.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Significant loss of jobs both locally and regionally.
- Light loading; loss of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth results in increased transportation costs of between \$1,300,000 and \$2,800,000 annually.



- Access between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie would be cut off, bringing a major portion of the Great Lakes system to a halt.

Transportation Importance

- Only connecting channel between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.
- Commodities transported through these channels include coal, iron ore (taconite), limestone, steel products, petroleum products, and other general cargo, including overseas cargo.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and 2008
Detroit River, Michigan Project Needs and President's Budget**

Work Package	FY07 Need	FY07 Budget	Δ	FY08 Need	FY08 Budget*
Operations	725	725		848	
CDF's	260	0	260		
Maintenance Dredging	4,006	4,006		4,175	
Structures	600	600		600	
Environmental Activities					
TOTALS	5,591	5,331	260	5,623	

* FY08 President's Budget will not be available until February 2007