



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



St. Mary's River, MI

River Features

- One of Great Lakes Connecting Channels. It is 63 miles long, flowing southeasterly between the State of Michigan and the Province of Ontario, Canada, from the eastern end of Lake Superior into the northern end of Lake Huron.
- Deep draft commercial channel.
- Depths varying from 27.5 to 28.5 feet in the St. Mary's River, Lake Superior and Lake Huron approaches.
- A total of 75 miles of Federally maintained deep draft channels.
- Project also operates four locks and two canals; a hydropower plant of 14,000 kilowatt capacity (45,000 kilowatt ultimate capacity); anchorage areas in the river above and below the locks, and various other works in conjunction with the project.
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Lake Carriers Association, MCM Marine, Purvis Marine Ltd., Gardiner Marine Ltd., Kemp Coal Dock.

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.
- Access between Lake Superior and the rest of the Great Lakes would be cut off, bringing the entire Great Lakes system to a halt.



Transportation Importance

- Only connecting channel between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- The St. Marys falls Canal and Locks provide for vessel passage around the 21-foot drop of the river over the falls at Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- This canal serves both domestic and foreign flag vessel plying the Great Lakes.
- Commodities transported through these channels include taconite, coal, limestone, petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals and related products, primary manufactured goods, food and farm products, and manufactured equipment, machinery and products.

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

Work Package	FY07 Need	FY07 Budget	Δ	FY08 Need	FY08 Budget*
Operations	6,813	6,813		7,027	
CDF's					
Maintenance Dredging	2,300	87	2213	2,470	
Structures	615	615			
Locks	11,752	11,752		14,561	
TOTALS	21,480	19,267	2213	24,058	

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