

GREAT LAKES SMALL HARBORS COALITION

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Small Harbors Coalition Expands Efforts Throughout Great Lakes States

Mt. Pleasant, MI---At its recent fifth state-wide meeting, the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition voted to expand the organization's mission and membership to all eight Great Lakes states and become the "Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition." It also approved joining forces with the organization Realize America's Maritime Promise (RAMP) to persuade federal officials to put a "firewall" around the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund restricting the use of those tax dollars for their intended purpose: navigation dredging.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
**Great Lakes &
Ohio River Division**

Portage Lake Harbor



“THE CHALLENGE”

Three phases of change:

- . Passion
- . Organize
- . Action

COALITION PRINCIPLES

- Advocate for all Great Lakes Small Harbors
- Join together to form a coalition of commercial and shallow draft harbors
- Solidify community commitment and personal involvement in the Harbor Coalition

- Articulate the need for increased funding
NOT reallocating existing funding
- Develop successful collaboration with
agency and political partners
- Effect needed changes to present
inadequate funding process

The Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition's vision is of:

1. An annual dedicated appropriation that maintains all Great Lakes harbor navigation channels and infrastructure requirements; and
2. Ongoing recognition and support for harbors that will maximize their economic benefit, enhance quality of life, and protect public safety.

MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

The Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition represents the shared needs and interests of Great Lakes communities with commercial and small harbors.

GOALS:

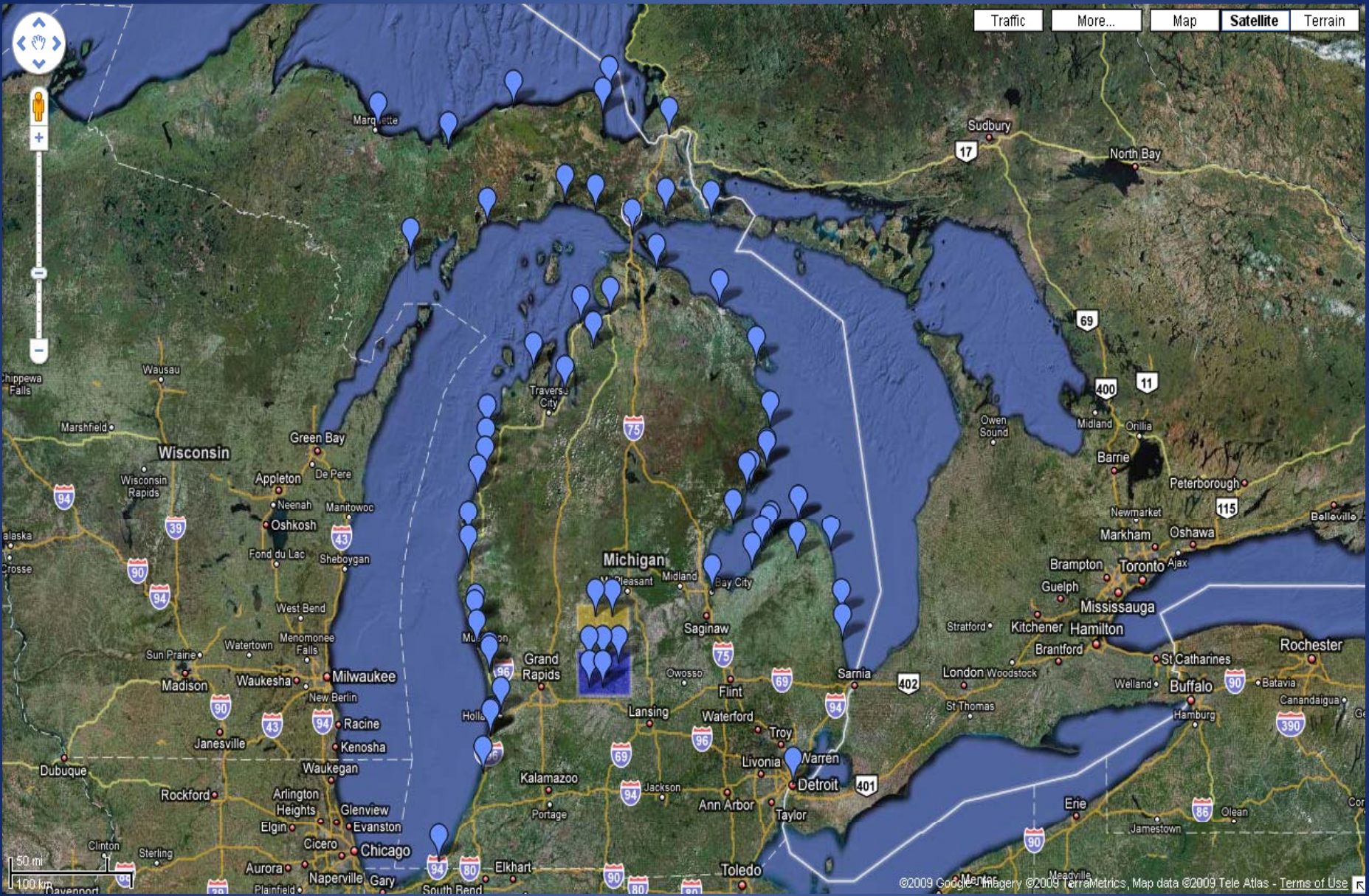
1. Change the present inadequate funding process of “earmarks” to an equitable, sustainable, needs-based budget process.

MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

2. Maintain boater access and safety through adequate dredging of authorized channels and maintenance of public navigation infrastructure.
3. Promote economic growth and quality of life that harbors represent to their communities, states, Great Lakes region and the nation.

MICHIGAN FEDERAL HARBORS

Authorized	57
Members	43
% Members	75%
Citizens Represented	1.5 Million



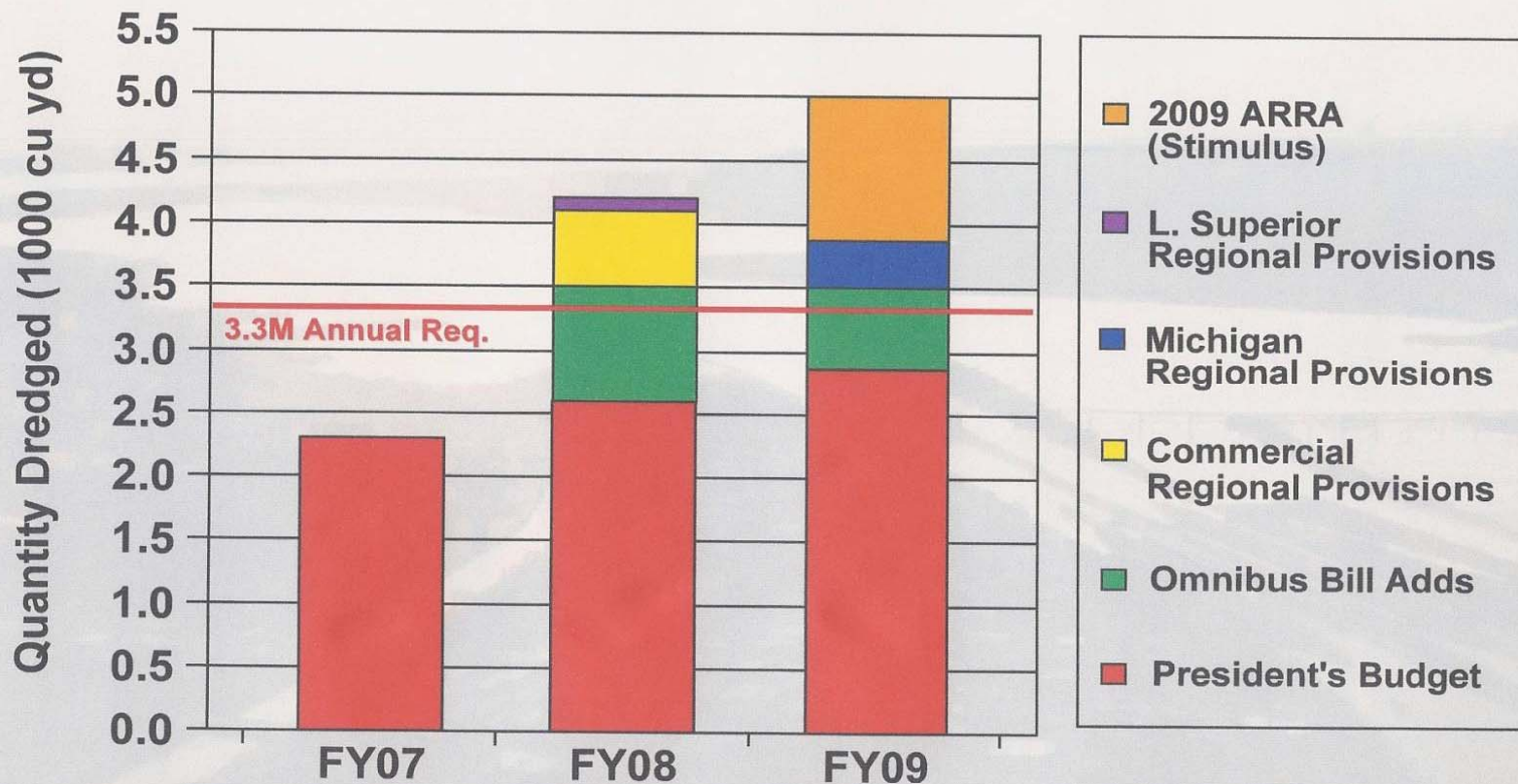
SO, WHAT IS THE GLSHC?

- Unified grassroots voice for Great Lakes Harbors.
- Over 1.5 million Michigan citizens.
- Support of: Senators
 - Representatives
 - USACE
 - DNR/Waterways Commission
 - Other Advocate Organizations
- The “Growing Buzz”
- Recognition of a Great Lakes issue.

RESULTS

- Success in 2009 Omnibus Bill for MSHC requested \$5 mil (\$6 mil).
- Michigan Federal Harbors received \$45 mil for 2009.
 - . \$6 mil in 2009 Omnibus
 - . \$20 mil in 2009 O&M Budget
 - . \$19 mil in Stimulus Bill
- Letters to Senators supporting significant funding for 2010.

GREAT LAKES DREDGING TRENDS 2007 - 2009



GLSHC STATUS

- Progress – ABSOLUTELY!
- Gaining momentum – ABSOLUTELY!
- Harbors still endangered – 2010, 2011?
- We must face the overriding issue.
- Build on this momentum – more citizens and advocate organizations.

THE ISSUE!

- Even in “good years” (2008/2009) less than half of funding to sustain our harbors is budgeted by the Administration/Office of Management and Budget—half of commercial needs and zero for shallow draft.
- The balance of sustenance funding must come from “earmarks”/Omnibus Bill.

CONT'D

- Massive backlog of infrastructure projects.
- Growing evidence “earmarks”/Omnibus Bills are endangered.
- Our mission – “an equitable, sustainable, needs-based (HMTF) budget.”

Federally Authorized Projects of the Great Lakes

<u>State</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Shallow Draft</u>	<u>Total</u>
Michigan *	27	43	70
Wisconsin*	11	10	21
New York	9	12	21
Ohio	8	7	15
Minnesota*	3	1	4
Illinois	4	-	4
Indiana	3	1	4
Pennsylvania	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Great Lakes Projects	65	74	139

*Two Shared Projects

Projects = Harbors and Waterways

WHO'S WHO?

Con't.

Lake Carrier's Association (LCA) James
Weakley, President

Trade Association representing U.S. Flag Vessel
operators on the Great Lakes.

WHO'S WHO?

Con't.

RAMP (Realize America's Maritime Promise)

Barry Holiday, Chair

A coalition of maritime companies seeking a legislative fix to the maintenance dredging crisis facing the nation's ports and waterways. Advocates using the revenues from HMTF for their originally intended purpose.

WHO'S WHO?

Con't.

American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA)

Steve Fisher, Executive Director

An organization representing 12 public port authorities on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes. Works to inform and influence public policies, primarily at Federal level, that foster maritime commerce and related employment.

COMMON CAUSE

Putting the “trust” back in the Harbor
Maintenance Trust Fund!

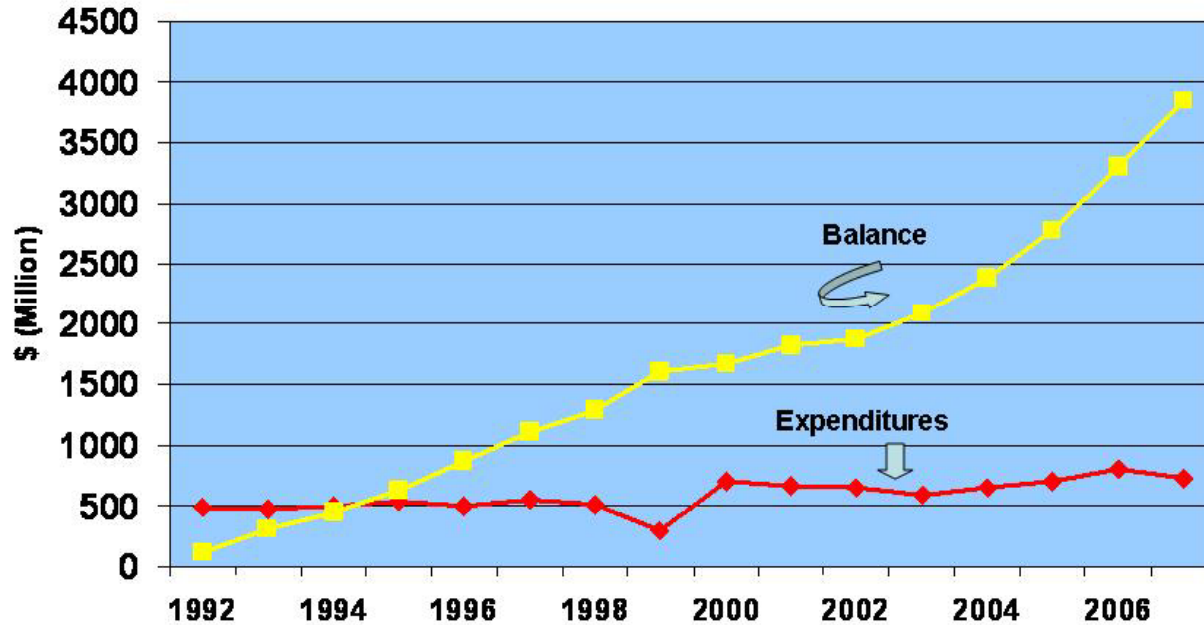
HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

- The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) and its Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) were authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986—a 0.125% ad valorem tax on cargo imported or domestically moved through Federally maintained harbors and channels to be used for USACOE operations and maintenance of Federal ports and harbors.
- Recent tax collections have been \$1.2 billion - \$1.4 billion while spending just over \$700 million on harbors.
- Obviously a significant portion of the tax revenue is not being spent on harbor maintenance; a \$4.7 billion balance is being held on the books to reduce the size of the Federal deficit.

The Reality



Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Expenditures and Balance, 1992-2007



Projected for 2007 Based on Conf Rpt.

MORE CITIZENS/ADVOCATE ORGANIZATIONS HOW?

- Join RAMP
- Reach out Great Lakes wide (MSHC to GLSHC)
- Partner with RAMP, LCA, GLC to
“Firewall”/Budget HMTF
- Establish Coalition structure, GLC Secretariat,
grants/dues
- Publicize/press releases
- Active in USACE Stakeholder meetings
- Raise the voice of millions of citizens



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GRAND MARAIS

LOSS OF THREE LIVES

GREAT LAKES SMALL HARBORS COALITION

- To succeed, we need to add the voice of every Great Lakes harbor community!
- To start, approve a Resolution of Support of the GLSHC.
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