

GREAT LAKES SMALL HARBORS COALITION

FACT SHEET

- There are 115 federal small harbors in the Great Lakes (excludes 12 ports).
- While federally authorized, these harbors have been chronically underfunded.
- The result is a massive backlog of dredging and repair needs.
- There are no budget line items for shallow draft harbors.
- There are inadequate budgeted line items for commercial harbors.
- As a result, all harbors rely on “earmarks” to keep them somewhat viable.
- The combination of low water and lack of funding produced a crisis in 2007.
- Ships going aground, freighters light loading, sailboats sinking, and lives endangered.
- Congressional authorized John Glenn Study shows Great Lakes recreation harbors contribute \$5.5 billion annual economic impact.
- Annual dredging and repair of these recreation harbors requires less than 1% of their economic impact.
- In 2007, shallow draft harbors had no unifying organization to speak for them.
- So, in 2008 the Small Harbors Coalition was created in Michigan to unify recreational and commercial harbors.
- Officially declared Resolutions of Support authorize the Coalition to speak for the harbors.
- In 2009, Coalition grew Great Lakes wide to speak for all 115 federal harbors.
- Resolutions of Support now received from Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- 100 Resolutions of Support have been authorized by villages, towns, cities, townships, counties, and harbor advocate organizations.
- The grassroots voice is growing on behalf of over 9 million citizens.
- The GLSHC mission statement is to “replace the present broken process of earmarks with an adequate, sustainable, needs-based budget process.”
- The call by the GLSHC is to “use the Harbor Maintenance Tax for its original purpose—to maintain our federal harbors!”
- Action being requested by the GLSHC is to pass a Water Resource Development Act or a bill this year requiring the dedication of the HMT to harbor maintenance.

