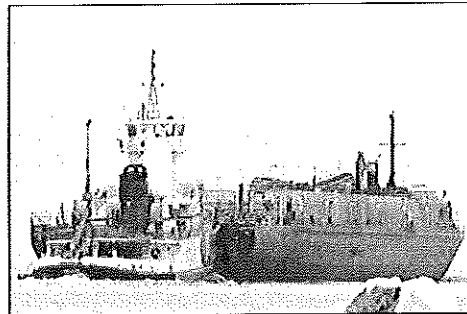


## Welcome

The Michigan Port Collaborative unites our ports and partners, recognizing that our Great Lakes and coastal assets are absolutely key to growing Michigan jobs, businesses and tourism, as well as protecting our precious and unique inland seas.

Together, Michigan ports and our partners are uniting to:

- Advance common policy and budget priorities in Lansing and Washington D.C.
- Develop and sustain the Blue Water Highway to provide affordable and environmentally protective freight and passenger transportation on our Great Lakes.
- Showcase Michigan's rich history, bountiful natural beauty, modern and historic maritime commerce.
- Build Great Lakes stewardship.
- Share port resources, news, innovative ideas and best practices.
- Link higher education, business and port leaders to anticipate port related jobs.



1|2 - Next

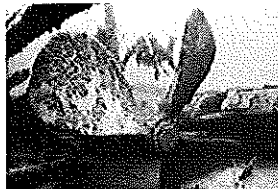
This page last updated on 3/15/2012.

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### Our Mission:

*The Michigan Port Collaborative unites port communities working to develop our Great Lakes and coastline as "Michigan's Front Door".*

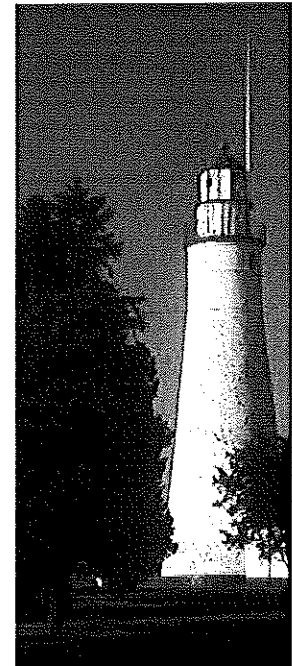
*Our Great Lakes, ports and coastal assets are unique in the world and are critical to future efforts to revitalize the Michigan economy. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining a robust waterfront economy that integrates marine passenger and freight transportation, commercial maritime operations, recreation, tourism and education about our region's history, while protecting the Great Lakes.*



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## About Us

Approximately 40 leaders from the deep water ports and state government met for the first time in 2007 in Port Huron, Michigan to explore common issues and opportunities for port communities. Subsequent meetings in Traverse City, Detroit and Lansing in the following two years recruited additional communities and leaders, and resulted in the formation of the Michigan of Collaborative by 2009.

In 2010, MPC hosted its first meeting to showcase a selected Michigan port: Muskegon. At this event, MPC worked to introduce Spring 2010 Summit attendees to the resources and issues facing the port of Muskegon, while also addressing current state and federal issues.

In the fall of 2010, MPC again met in Lansing to engage its members with state and federal officials.

Sault Ste. Marie hosted the successful Spring 2011 Summit featuring the assets of a second Michigan Port. The Fall 2011 Summit is slated for October 26, 2011 again in our state capital of Lansing, Michigan.

MPC will continue to host both regional and statewide meetings to explore individual port successes and challenges, as well as ensure that state and federal policy makers remain informed about the mission to advance Michigan ports and the assets of clean and vibrant Great Lakes waters.

### *Non-profit and Tax Exempt*

Today, the Michigan Port Collaborative (MPC) has officially incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization which is tax-exempt and tax-deductible.

### *Web Site Growing*

MPC has completed Phase I of our website development, embodied in this site. We are working to expand this site have plans to link in each of our member ports with their own web pages, featuring the details of their port services and attractions. It is our hope that this site will enable those seeking information about cargo shipping, non-commercial services, Great Lakes ferries in Michigan, Great Lakes harbors and marinas – and all of the local, historical and tourism information associated with each port – will be accessible through this site. Further, we will provide links to our port partners, to provide the best, comprehensive information available about Michigan's unique and authentic Great Lakes ports.

### *Annual State and Regional Meetings*

MPC hosts statewide and regional meetings each year in an effort to connect the public, interested businesses, Michigan port communities and our partners to all of the resources that will promote and advance the mission of the MPC.

MPC meetings will generally be held in Lansing in the Fall, to ensure regular connection with state and federal policy makers. Regional and spring meetings will be held in those port communities that have become MPC members and that wish to share their resources and challenges, gaining from the experience and information available from MPC port members and partners.


This page last updated on 10/18/2011.

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