

APRIL 2015

Port n' News

FOX RIVER CLEAN-UP PROJECT

(Green Bay) - On Monday, March 30th, the Fox River Clean-Up Project entered its seventh year. The Fox River Clean-Up project started in 2009 in Little Lake Butte des Morts and is working down the Fox River to the Bay of Green Bay.

This will be the first time that the project has undertaken clean-up activities in the Port of Green Bay (Green Bay Harbor). The Green Bay Harbor area is federally authorized and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the mouth of the Fox River 3.3 miles to the Georgia-Pacific turning basin. The efforts of the Fox River Clean-Up Project have been to remove PCBs (polychlorinated bi-phenyls) from the river. PCBs are a chemical that was released in the past during the process of making certain types of paper in the mills all along the Fox River. Remedies for cleaning up the Fox River involve both hydraulic dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments and an option for capping the PCB sediments under various layers of rock and sand. The project is being administered by the USEPA and WDNR.

This year as the Fox River Clean-Up Project makes its way through the Port towards downtown, water traffic will become more congested than normal. Since both recreational boaters and commercial ships use the river, they will have to take extra caution when maneuvering through the Port. However, the dredging project will have to accommodate for the right of way of commercial ships. The Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department says that the clean-up process will not affect the 14 port businesses along the Fox River. This project is expected to be finished in 2017.



Port of Green Bay

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THE START OF THE SHIPPING SEASON

The shipping season officially began in Green Bay on April 3rd when the first ship, *Michigan Great Lakes*, arrived at U.S. Venture at 5:15 p.m. With the start of the shipping season the Port of Green Bay closed the First Ship Contest and announced the winner. Jesse Deprey from Brussels, WI guessed that on April 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. the first ship would arrive. Jesse was only off by two hours and fifteen minutes. He won a \$25 gift card from Courthouse Pub in Manitowoc, WI and roundtrip tickets for two adults onboard the S.S. Badger Lake Michigan Carferry between Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI. The Port of Green Bay is excited for this contest has done a great job of getting the public involved in the activities of the Port of Green Bay and the start of the shipping season.

The 2015 shipping season is off to an earlier start than what was experienced in 2014 when ice-breaking did not even start until April with the first ship arriving April 15th. Ice conditions in 2014 were so bad that the U.S. Coast Guard fought six foot thick ice in some areas in April and there were still ice in parts of Lake Superior until June. This year ice-breaking in the Great Lakes began in the first week of March with the Soo Locks opening on March 25th to allow ships to travel from Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes.

Currently there is still a substantial amount of ice around the Soo Locks, Straits of Mackinaw in lake Michigan and in Lake Superior. The U.S. Coast Guard is working to manage the ice so commercial ships will be able to pass through and move on to their final destination. As of April 6th there were several ships that were stuck in the Soo Locks because of the ice with the U.S. Coast Guard working to get these ships free. The U.S. Coast Guard expect to finish ice breaking by the end of April.

While the ice conditions in 2015 are nothing like what they were in 2014 they are still far worse than what has been normal in the past couple of decades.

Over all, the 2015 shipping season is projected to be as successful as that of 2014. When 2.3 million metric tons of cargo were transported. With the first ships arriving almost three weeks earlier than in 2014, along with Lake Michigan's higher water levels (read on to the next article) ships will be able to transport more cargo in and out of Green Bay this year.



Michigan Great Lakes

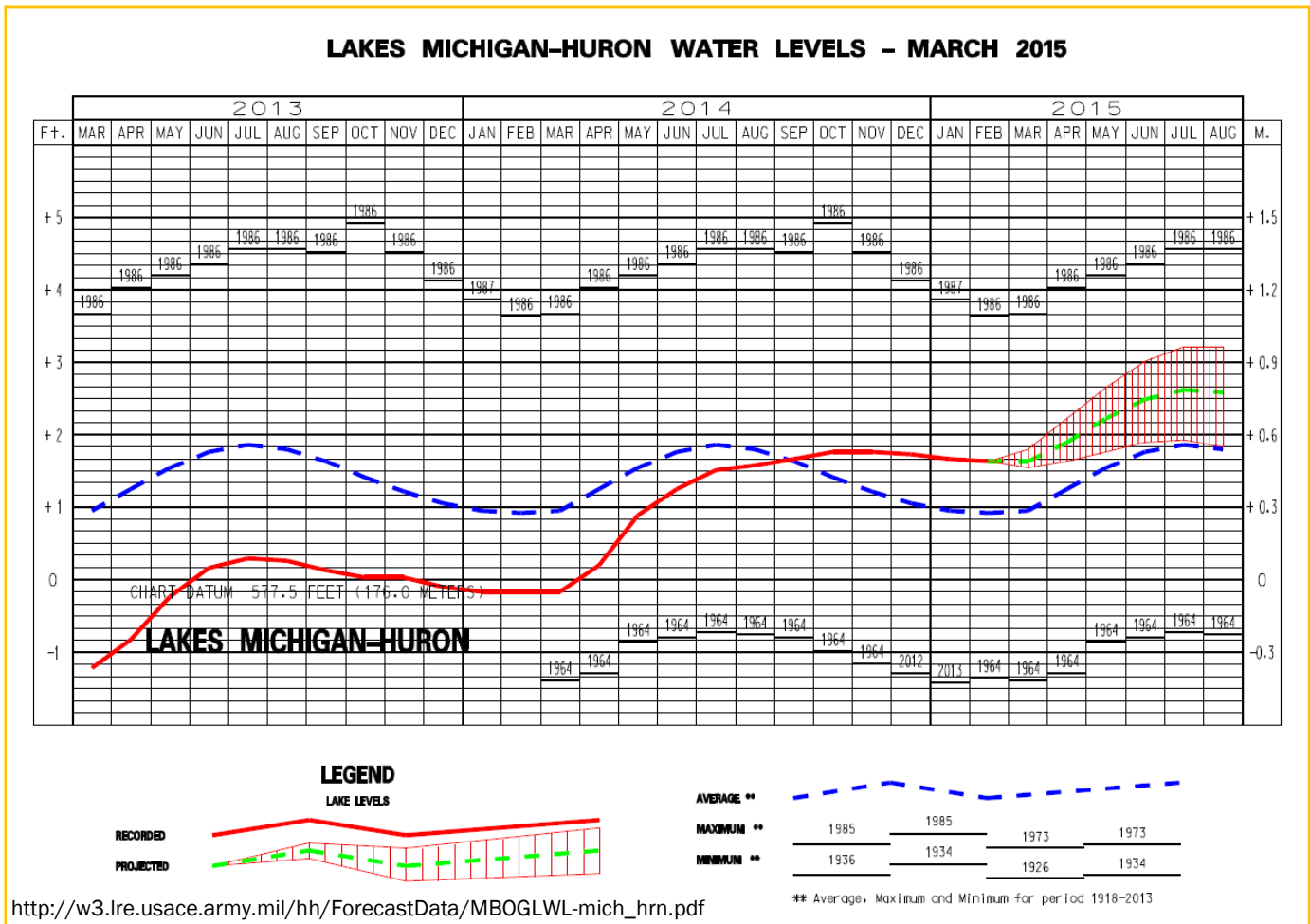
LAKE MICHIGAN WATER LEVELS RISE

After almost 15 years of low water levels, the water levels in Lake Michigan are rising to levels that have not been seen since the late 1990s.

In January 2013 water levels in Lake Michigan hit a record low; two years later the level is considerably higher. This substantial increase has not been seen since the 1950s. The past two years water levels have risen steadily in Lake Michigan; even with the dry spring that has been occurring in 2015. "We've had two consecutive winters with conditions of water levels rising," according to Keith Kompoltowicz, chief of watershed hydrology with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit. "We had a very wet spring in 2013. Fast forward to 2014 with the coldest winter since 1994 and the most snow ever in some places." Water levels rose significantly in 2014 from 14 to 15 inches above the same time a year earlier. Levels continued to rise throughout 2014 and are currently some 8 inches above the long term average and nearly three feet higher than they were in January 2013.

Water levels have a direct impact on the Port's business. With every inch increase in water levels, ships can carry 75-100 tons more of cargo. This means fewer trips that ships have to take, less gas they will subsequently use and less money that has to be charged for goods.

The projections for this year are that water levels in Lake Michigan will continue to rise throughout the summer with water rising another six to twelve inches by July.



2015 ANNUAL PORT SYMPOSIUM

(Green Bay, WI) - Brown County Port & Resource Recovery will host the annual 2015 Port of Green Bay Symposium on Friday April 17, 2015 at Titledown Brewery Tap Room in downtown Green Bay. The meeting will provide a great opportunity to gather and exchange information on current issues concerning the Port of Green Bay and the Great Lakes. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. with a coffee social followed by presentations from each of our distinguished guest speakers. The Port Symposium is invitation only and advanced registration is required. Contact the Port of Green Bay at (920)-492-4950 or Schraufnagel_SM@co.brown.wi.us.



The Palmerton in the Port of Green Bay, WI in 2014.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015 PORT SYMPOSIUM

April 17, 2015

Titledown Brewery Tap Room @ 9 a.m.

HARBOR COMMISSION

May 11, 2015

Port & Resource Recovery Department @ 10:30 a.m.



HARBOR COMMISSION

June 8, 2015

Port & Resource Recovery Department @ 10:30 a.m.

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