Ohio Shallow Draft Harbors: Some Economic Impacts

= Jobs and Income

Frank Lichtkoppler, Ohio Sea Grant Extension  August 5, 2009
Ohio Coalition of Shallow Draft Harbors - First Meeting
Ohio Shallow Draft Harbors w/ Federal Authorization

Cooley Canal
Toussaint River
Portage River
West Harbor
Put-In-Bay
Vermilion River
Rocky River
Geneva State Park*

Ohio Sea Grant College Program
Problem:
Shallow Draft Harbors are not a priority.
Now only dredged as a result of project specific Congressional designation.

How do we demonstrate the benefits of maintaining Shallow Draft Harbors?
There is no doubt that dredging of West Harbor is economically justified.... The economically optimum channel depth with maximum net benefits is 8.0 feet.... Its benefit to cost ratio is 8.0.

“Each addition of 12 boating households results in the addition of one job.”

Source: Ohio Sea Grant - *Recreational Boating in Ohio* - Nov 1999
Total spending per boat owning Ohio household, excluding boat loan payments, was $5,627.

In Ottawa County total household boating expenditures, excluding boat loan payments, was $20,575.

Source: Ohio Sea Grant - *Recreational Boating in Ohio* - Nov 1999
# Of Registered boats in Ottawa County in 2008 = 6,346

Estimated number of boating households in Ottawa County = 3,173 or ~ 264 jobs

Estimated total boating related expenditures by Ottawa County households ~ $86.2 million in 2008 dollars
The direct economic impact of charter customer trip spending was estimated at $16.7 million in sales, $6.9 million in wages, and $9.2 million in value added to local economies, sustaining 331 jobs.

Source: MSU Recreational Marine Research Center 2003
Almost 40% of the Great Lakes Charter Fishing Fleet is docked in the Ohio waters of Lake Erie. ~ 132 Jobs

Great Lakes shallow draft harbors have functional value beyond that associated with recreational boating.

Provide Public access to Lake Erie for:
- Economic Redevelopment
- Recreation & Tourism
- Protecting the Lake

Ferry Operations
US Coast Guard Stations
Harbors of Refuge
Subsistence Harbors

Source: USACE Great Lakes Recreational Boating - December 2008
The economic data demonstrate the importance of maintaining adequate depths for navigation at these (Great Lakes shallow draft) recreational boating harbors.

Source: USACE Great Lakes Recreational Boating - December 2008
Information Sources

Ohio Sea Grant >>>
Recreational Boating in Ohio: An Economic Impact Study 1999
The Great Lakes Charter Fishing Industry: 1973 to 2002
Ohio’s 2006 Lake Erie Charter Fishing Industry

USACE >>>
Great Lakes Recreational Boating December 2008 PL106-53 WRDA of 1999 Sect 455(c)
West Harbor Dredging Evaluation November 2000

Great Lakes Commission >>>
Great Lakes Recreational Boating’s Economic Punch 2007