

# Manistique Restoration Project

## Dredging the Harbor

### Restoring the harbor from sediment contamination — 2019

The Manistique Dredge Project is the final stage in a project started in the late 1990s to clean up sediment in the river and harbor contaminated with chemicals known as PCBs. The chemicals are left over from industrial processes of the past. They can cause harm to the fish and wildlife that live there and affect people who eat fish from the area. How much fish is safe? Check out your local guidelines at [www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish](http://www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish).

Several cleanup projects to restore the harbor have been completed over the years. Most recently in 2016, the project focused on cleaning areas upstream of the public boat launch. This year's efforts will focus largely downstream from the launch. Work will stop during the last two weekends of July to accommodate the Fishing Derby and will be fully completed in spring of 2020.

In time, this cleanup will lower concentrations of PCBs from the fish, plants and birds that live near the harbor including those we eat. This will return the environment to a healthy state, benefiting those who enjoy the harbor for fishing, boating and recreation or rely on it for local business.

### What are PCBs?

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are a group of toxic chemicals that were once widely used in industrial applications and are known to cause health problems.

### What will happen?

Contaminated sediment in the harbor will be removed by operators using barges and excavators from targeted high-contamination areas. Dredging operations are scheduled for 12 hours a day, Monday through Saturday, throughout the project. The sediment will be processed on land and sent to a landfill. When the contaminated sediment is removed, a 9-inch, clean sand layer infused with activated carbon will be spread over the bottom of the harbor to reduce residual PCBs from entering the water.

### How big is the project?

Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the harbor. That's more than 2,000 dump trucks!

### Contact

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*See back for timeline and details*



White Lake Dock and Dredge, Inc. dredging the Manistique River - 2016

## Project Partners

The project will be led by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, Water Resources Division with oversight by Arcadis.

Other partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Michigan Office of the Great Lakes.

Dredging operations will be conducted by White Lake Dock and Dredge, Inc.

## Support

Funding for the project is provided by NOAA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, [www.glri.us](http://www.glri.us).

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a federal program leveraging state and local partnerships to clean up areas with environmental problems in the Great Lakes region. Goals include:

- Fish are safe to eat
- Water is safe for recreation
- People have clean drinking water
- Invasive species are controlled
- Habitat is protected and restored



## Project Timeline

**May 15-29 (2019)**  
Mobilization: Equipment moved to work site

**May 29-July 5**  
Site preparation

**July 5 - October 24**  
Harbor dredging

**July 20-21, 27-28**  
Dredging activities will stop during the Manistique Trout and Salmon Derby

**October 24 - November 30**  
Sand cover placement

**November 30 - December 14**  
Demobilization: Equipment packed up, work paused

**December 14 - May 1 (2020)**  
Winter shutdown

**May 2 - June 15**  
Final site restoration

*\* Dates may be subject to change*

