**Why Dredge Menekaunee Harbor?**

By 2010, Menekaunee Harbor had filled in with sand and sediment from upstream. Urban and industrial activities had contaminated the sediment with heavy metals and petroleum products. In 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and City of Marinette dredged the harbor to clean it up.

More than 59,000 cubic yards of sediment has been removed for safe disposal. The harbor is deeper and better able to accommodate recreational and commercial fishing boats now that dredging is complete. Removing the contaminated sediment will significantly benefit fish and other wildlife.

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**DREDGING BENEFITS EVERYONE**

- Improved water depths for boating and recreation
- Removal of pollutants harmful to people, fish, and wildlife
- Opportunities for new economic development and tourism
- Fish and wildlife habitat restoration opportunities
- Improved quality of life for the community

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**Restoring Habitat**

Rundown retaining walls have been repaired or replaced with riprap more friendly to fish and wildlife. Wetland and shallow water habitat in other parts of the harbor will be preserved and restored. Musky and other fish spawn in the harbor and the young fish need wetland and shallow water habitat to grow.

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**Great Lakes Connections**

The work happening at Menekaunee Harbor is part of a larger program to clean up and restore the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern, Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes. Areas of Concern are found throughout the Great Lakes, and are all considered to be greatly in need of environmental cleanup and restoration.

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**Scientists collected sediment samples from the harbor to determine how much sediment should be removed.**

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**VISIT:**

[fyi.uwex.edu/aocs](http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs) or [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keyword search Areas of Concern

[michigan.gov/deq](http://michigan.gov/deq) keyword search Areas of Concern

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The name “Menekaunee” comes from the Menominee word “Minikani” and means “Where the Lodges Are.” Menekaunee Harbor was once the site of a Menominee Indian wild rice harvesting camp.

Sawmills and lumber-related industries blossomed during the late 1800’s. Menekaunee Harbor was a thriving fish market and a safe harbor for dozens of commercial fishing boats.

As a quiet backwater, Menekaunee Harbor naturally collected sand and sediments from upstream. The harbor also collected heavy metals and petroleum products from nearby urban and industrial activity, hurting aquatic life.

The City of Marinette and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have partnered to clean up the harbor, and improve conditions for boaters, anglers, and aquatic life.