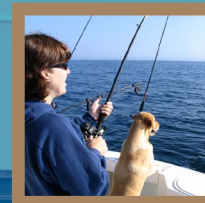
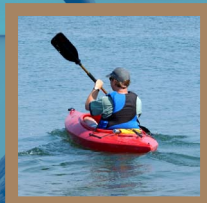


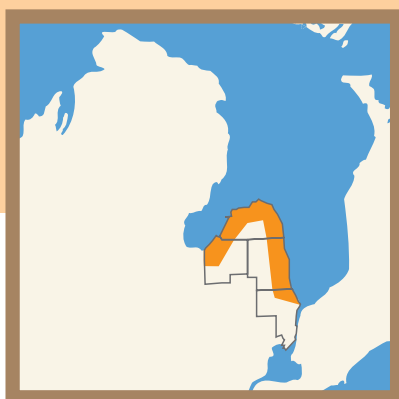
Charting the Course for the Bluewater Coast

SOUTHERN LAKE HURON ASSESSMENT



BACKGROUND PHOTO: KRIS SZUJLAWSKI

BACKGROUND Michigan's changing economy and Lake Huron's declining Chinook salmon fishery have negatively impacted the coastal communities of Michigan's Thumb. Historically, individual port towns and coastal businesses in the Thumb Area have worked in isolation. However, a regional assessment could help communities work collaboratively to adapt to these changes and challenges. This project is bringing together researchers, natural resource and tourism professionals, and community leaders to assess current conditions and identify opportunities.



FOCAL QUESTION

How can the natural and cultural resources of Lake Huron and its coast be enhanced and leveraged to benefit residents and visitors of the Thumb Area, support local economies, and maintain environmental quality?

Assessment Topics

Based on the interests and ideas of community members, the project team is gathering information about the following topics.

1. **Fishing on Lake Huron.** Including commercial, sport and charter fishing trends, food web changes, and the economic impact of fishing.
2. **Socioeconomic Trends.** Including population, employment and housing trends, statewide forecasts, and community values.
3. **Travel, Tourism and Recreation.** Including parks, marinas, boating, and wildlife watching, statewide trends, and visitor profiles.
4. **Regional Coordination and Marketing.** What's working locally and around the state?

Get Involved

Join us at our next meeting and help chart a vibrant future for the Thumb Area's coast. Stakeholder input guides the project and helps ensure that the results are relevant and useful.

Project Stages:	Recruit Partners	Explore Issues	Assess Trends	Identify Opportunities	Develop Vision	Evaluate Options	Provide Tools for Action
Timeline:	2009		2010		2011		Winter 2012

Contacts

Mary Bohling
Extension Educator
Michigan Sea Grant
(313) 410-9431
bohling@msu.edu

Christine Vogt
Tourism Specialist
Michigan State University
vogtc@msu.edu

Dan McCole
Commercial Recreation Specialist
Michigan State University
mccoleda@msu.edu

Jim Diana
Fisheries Specialist
University of Michigan
jimd@umich.edu

www.miseagrant.umich.edu/research/projects/huron



Michigan Sea Grant enhances the sustainability of Michigan's coastal communities, residents, and businesses through research, outreach and education.



MICHU-10-738