

CASE STUDIES

# Michigan Coastal Community Working Waterfronts RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

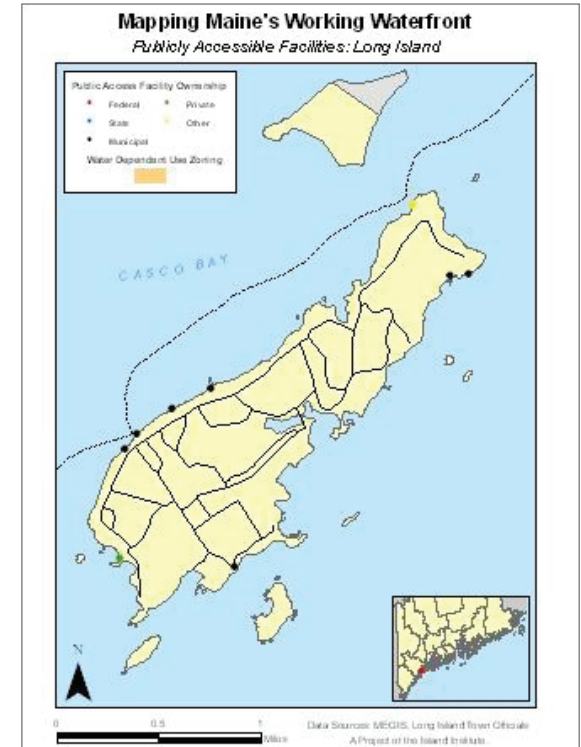
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# RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

## STATE LEVEL

- Generate greater awareness of importance of working waterfronts through expanded education and outreach.
- Adopt definitions for working waterfront and working waterfront terms including water-dependent use, water-related use and water-enhanced use. Most coastal states have established formal working waterfront definitions. Some states give local governments the authority to adopt locally specific definitions. *Working Waterfronts and the CZMA: Defining Water-Dependent Use* of the Sustainable Working Waterfront Toolkit has guidance on crafting definitions that contain a statement of purpose, policy considerations and model dependency tests and examples. Refer to the Toolkit for an inventory of state definitions, including definitions for other Great Lakes States (Minnesota, New York, Ohio).  
<http://www.wateraccessus.com/toolkit.html>
- Adopt a working waterfront program to support water-dependent uses.  
Examples:
  - The Waterfronts Florida Program helps local coastal governments to revitalize their working waterfronts by providing resources and technical assistance for planning.  
<http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/technical-assistance/community-resiliency/waterfronts-florida-program>
  - Maine's Department of Marine Resources Working Waterfront Access Protection Program provides funds to help purchase development rights in order to preserve and protect key properties on the coast that provide access to and support commercial fisheries activities.  
<http://www.wwapp.org/overview.cfm>
  - The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a New York State-sponsored program under the direction of the State Coastal Management Program that supported waterfront revitalization in the Village of Port Chester, NY.  
[http://www.portchesterny.com/Pages/PortChesterNY\\_Webdocs/COMPLETE%20PUBLIC%20HEARING%20DRAFT%20JAN%202013%20REDUCED.pdf](http://www.portchesterny.com/Pages/PortChesterNY_Webdocs/COMPLETE%20PUBLIC%20HEARING%20DRAFT%20JAN%202013%20REDUCED.pdf)
- Establish model zoning and ordinance language to support the protection of water-dependent uses and address waterfront land use conflicts.
- Collaborate with the Michigan Port Collaborative, Small Harbors Coalition and others to evaluate the need for a statewide port authority.



Island Harbor Institute



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- Provide guidance on and encourage preparation of a waterfront or harbor master plan that includes issues such as dredging needs and potential sources of funding for dredging, scenario planning for high and low water levels, land use and waterfront access planning, natural resource protection and management, multi-modal transportation and climate.
- Facilitate the creation of a one-stop shop with funding sources for working waterfronts. Establish a system and identify resources for assisting ports with capital development and maintenance needs.
- Conduct a statewide inventory of water-dependent uses. Monitor access, waterfront land use and change  
Examples:
  - The Island Harbor Institute worked with 142 coastal communities to inventory Maine's working waterfronts and map each coastal access point.  
[http://www.islandinstitute.org/working\\_waterfront\\_mapping.php](http://www.islandinstitute.org/working_waterfront_mapping.php)
  - Rhode Island Sea Grant conducted a Ports and Harbors Inventory of the state's working waterfronts  
<http://www.seagrants.uri.edu/coast/portsharbors.html>
- Integrate working waterfront planning into state initiatives, such as placemaking and across state agencies.
- Encourage regional support and planning for industrial, commercial and recreational waterfront assets through existing bodies such as the Great Lakes Council of Governors, Lakewide Management Plans and local Councils of Government.
- Evaluate the demand for and benefits of a self-help resource modeled after the Accessing the Maine Coast site, a web-based resource that contains information to help waterfront users, coastal communities and land owners address issues related to coastal access.  
<http://www.accessingthemainecoast.com/index.shtml>
- Expand use of inland, intra-costal and coastal waterways for the transportation of freight and passengers to mitigate landside congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions per ton-mile of freight moved.
- Facilitate the development of regional infrastructure plans.



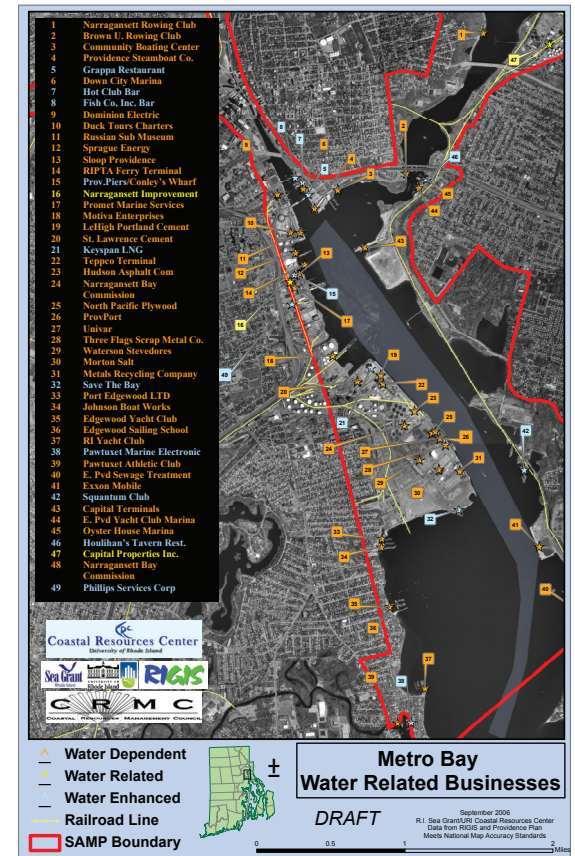
Rhode Island Sea Grant



Michigan Sea Grant

## LOCAL LEVEL

- Create a shoreline area master plan that includes a harbor and working waterfront plan.
- Conduct an inventory of local water-related assets and resources.
- Identify the cultural value of the community's working waterfront.
- Adopt an adaptive management approach for planning and managing coastal infrastructure.
- Engage in placemaking.
- Plan for the long-term future of the community's waterfront. Involve the community in a visioning process to identify desired waterfront uses and the community's plan for addressing areas such as public access to the waterfront area, hazard mitigation, environmental and cultural resource protection, and enhancement of the viable waterfront economy.
- Consider regional resources and opportunities to increase the viability of water-dependent uses through partnerships, collaboration and resource sharing.
- Engage in Waterfront Smart Growth planning. Host a Waterfront Smart Growth Readiness Assessment workshop.
- Diversify tourism industry and water-related activities and opportunities.
- Preserve and restore local ecology and maintain a high quality natural environment.
- Provide incentives for preserving public access and viewsheds.



Providence Working Waterfront Alliance



Detroit Yacht Club