

Sector Lake Michigan Marine Safety

CDR Joseph Burgess



Sector Commander Authorities

FMSC-Federal Maritime Security Coord



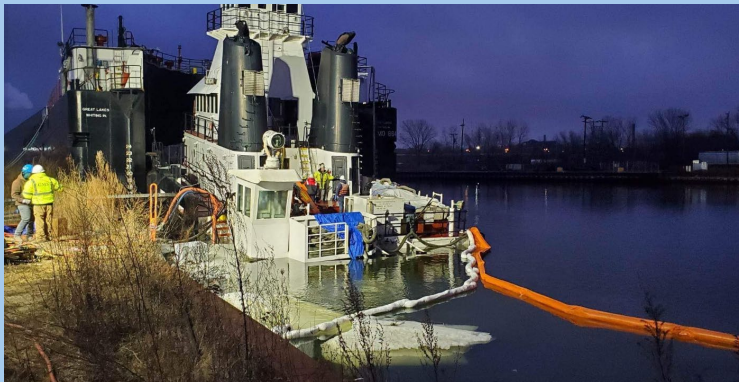
COTP-Captain of the Port



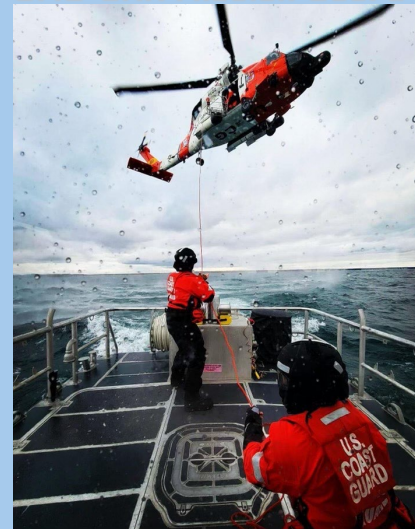
**OCMI-Officer In-charge of
Marine Inspections**



FOSC-Federal On Scene Coordinator



SMC-SAR Mission Coord



Area of Responsibility

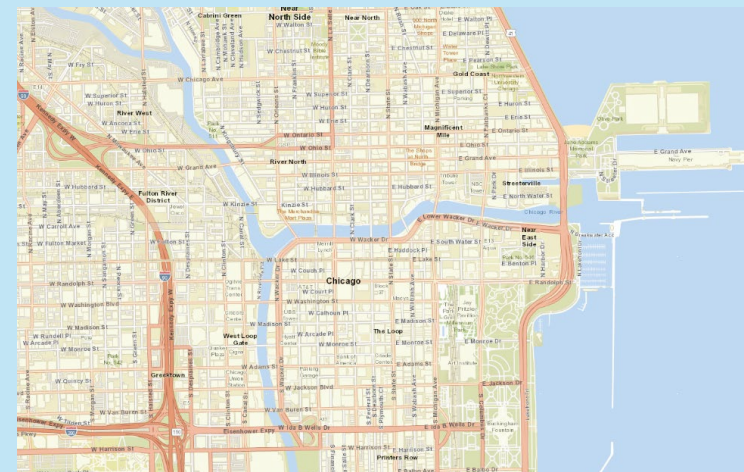
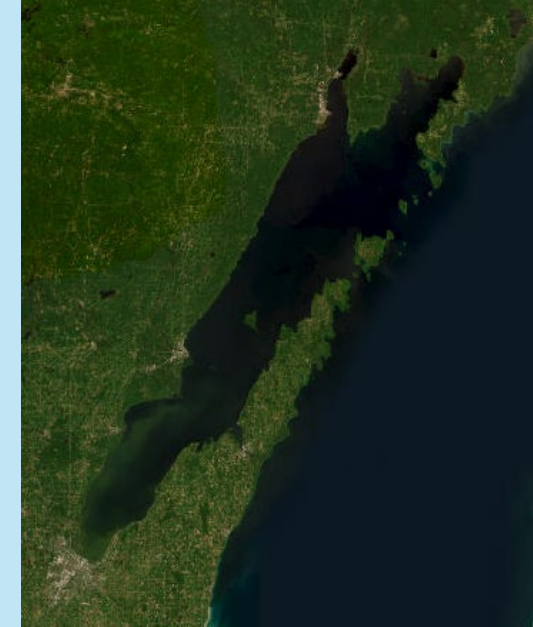


1,638 mi of shoreline spanning WI, IL, IN, and MI

Lake Winnebago



Green Bay & Sturgeon Bay



Chicago River System

Prevention Department

Inspections
Division

Waterways
Management
Division

Investigations
Division

Port and Waterways Safety Assessment

Convenes local experts

Assesses waterway risk factors

Builds consensus

Informs future action

Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment

Workshop Report

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

14 – 15 May 2025



**Providing Navigation Safety Information
for America's Waterways Users**

2025 Milwaukee PAWSA Results

Milwaukee's waterway risk profile was generally assessed as low.

Strong stakeholder relationships and proactive communication are key strengths.

Port growth and increasing waterway activity require proactive mitigation.

Workshop participants prioritized four areas:

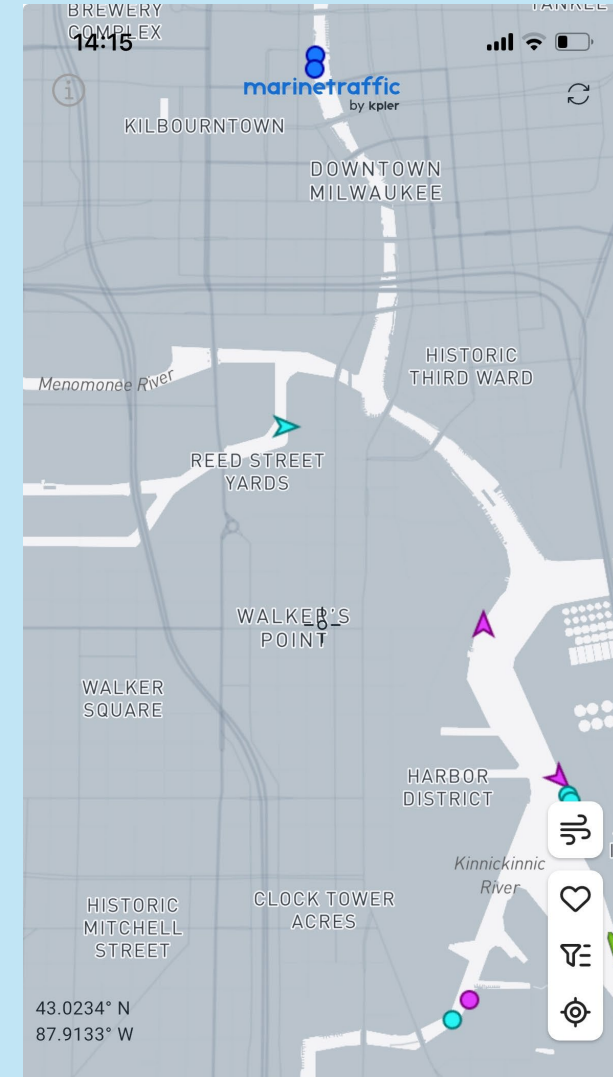
- Recreational vessel quality and operation
- Traffic congestion
- Recreational vessel volume
- Winds

Improve Rec. Boater Awareness

- Observed concerns
 - Unsafe or illegal lighting configurations
 - Insufficient separation from commercial vessels
 - Limited situational awareness and navigation rules knowledge
 - Wakes that damage moored vessels and create conflicts with small craft
- Recommended actions
 - Expand outreach through marinas, launches, rental firms, sailing schools, and boating organizations.
 - Train human powered craft operators on navigation rules and radio procedures.
 - Establish a Port Milwaukee online “one-stop shop,” promoted by QR codes.
 - Reinforce vessel safety checks and “Slow/No Wake” signage

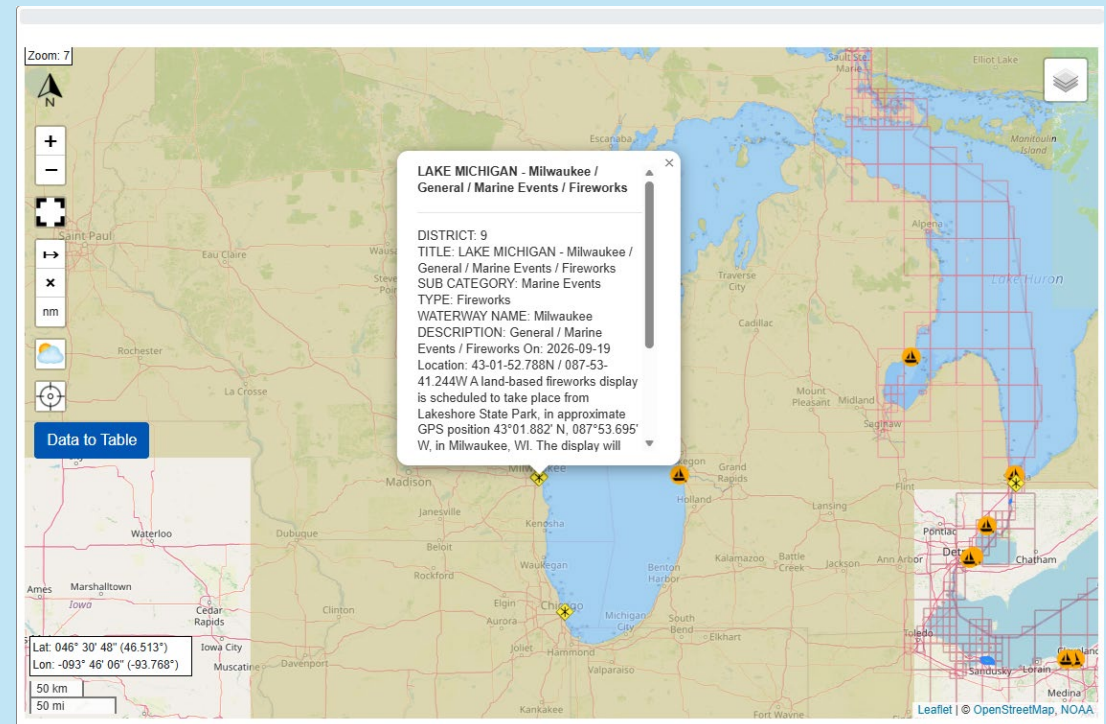
Safe Navigation Through Congested Areas

- Congested Areas
- Recreational rafting near waterfront businesses
- Limited maneuverability of novelty watercraft
- Vessel convergence near the Hoan Bridge
- Constrained river confluences:
 - Kinnickinnic
 - Menomonee



Predictability of Marine Events

- Establish public centralized marine event calendar
 - Marine Safety Information Product



Improve Wind Resilience

- Wind Related Risks
 - Northeast winds create challenging inner harbor conditions and can overtop breakwalls.
 - Strong winds threaten docks and moored vessels.
 - A wind tunnel effect between Wisconsin Street and Michigan Street complicates navigation.
 - Wind driven water level and temperature changes affect both navigation and recreational-boater safety.
- Participant-recommended actions
 - Sustain breakwall construction and maintenance investments.
 - Identify and publicize safe upriver mooring areas for strong wind events.
 - Expand weather sensors and live camera coverage.
 - Install a visible wind indicator near Wisconsin Street and Michigan Street.
 - Include wind, water-depth, and hypothermia awareness in public outreach.

Questions?