

Cheboygan Vessel Base

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is dedicated to providing scientific information for restoring, enhancing, managing, and protecting living resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes region. The Center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has biological stations and research vessels located throughout the Great Lakes Basin.



Facility

The Cheboygan Vessel Base (CVB) in Cheboygan, Michigan is a facility of the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. CVB is located on the west side of the Cheboygan River below the US-23 bridge. The office is in a single story, vinyl sided, 2850 square foot building. This building serves as an office for the vessel crew, and as a maintenance and storage facility. The Vessel Base has 132 ft. of dockage on the Cheboygan River with a depth of 12 feet of water at dock side. Ongoing discussions with the City of Cheboygan have the potential to annex an additional 66 feet of city dock that adjoins the property. The



facility is also shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who moors the fish stocking vessel M/V *Spencer Baird* there.

Staff

The Base employs five to seven people who are charged with maintaining the R/V *Sturgeon* and the R/V *Grayling*, plus the facility, grounds and government vehicles. They perform most above water repairs, and store and maintain trawls, nets, and other research gear.

History

The Great Lakes Science Center first created a vessel base in Cheboygan in 1973. This facility was located very near the current facility. In 1973 the R/V *Kaho* was the sole research vessel stationed in Cheboygan. The R/V *Grayling* replaced the R/V *Kaho* in Cheboygan in 1977, and shortly thereafter the Vessel Base moved to its current location which was then owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1987 the Great Lakes Science Center officially acquired the property

from the United States Coast Guard. In 1989 the dock was rebuilt. The Great Lakes Science Center consolidated its vessel operations on lakes Michigan and



Huron in 1994 and moved the R/V *Cisco* to the facility in addition to the R/V *Grayling*. The subsequent decommissioning of the R/V *Cisco* saw the addition of the R/V *Siscowet* to the fleet in Cheboygan. In 1995 the maintenance, storage and office buildings were constructed. In 1998 the vessel shore power systems were upgraded, and in 2000 they were upgraded again to handle 440 volts 3 phase service. The R/V *Siscowet* was decommissioned in 2004 and replaced by the R/V *Sturgeon*.