



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 USGS Great Lakes Science Center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has biological stations and research vessels located across the Great Lakes Basin.



The Base

Cheboygan Vessel Base (CVB), located in Cheboygan, Michigan, is a field station of the USGS Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC). CVB was established by congressional action in 1973 as part of the GLSC. Initially supervised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the GLSC and CVB transferred to the USGS in 1996. CVB serves the needs of resource managers as defined in a memorandum of understanding between the GLSC and the Council of Lake Committees.

CVB is the GLSC's vessel operations hub for Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, with additional field support for eastern Lake Superior. CVB vessels operate across four state boundaries, Canadian waters, and Treaty waters. CVB is currently home to the R/V *Arcticus* and R/V *Sturgeon*.

In 1973, the R/V *Kaho* was the sole research vessel stationed at CVB. The *Kaho* was replaced by the R/V *Grayling* in 1977. Shortly

after, CVB relocated to its current location, then owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1987, the GLSC officially acquired the property, and in 1989 the dock was rebuilt.

The GLSC consolidated its vessel operations on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in 1994, which resulted in the relocation of the R/V *Cisco* to CVB. The *Cisco* was subsequently decommissioned, and the R/V *Siscowet* was added to the CVB fleet. In 1995, CVB maintenance, storage, and office areas were constructed, and shore power systems were upgraded in 1998 and 2000. In 2004, the *Siscowet* was decommissioned and replaced by the R/V *Sturgeon*. Most recently, in 2014, the *Grayling* was replaced by the R/V *Arcticus*.

Research

The R/V *Arcticus* and R/V *Sturgeon* are the keystone platforms to GLSC deepwater science activities in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. These vessels currently participate in research focusing on: (1) prey fishes of





salmonids and other fishes of economic importance; (2) fish population and community dynamics; (3) food web dynamics; and (4) lake trout restoration. Additionally, both vessels carry out specialized contaminants work.



Facilities and Vessels

CVB is located on the west side of the Cheboygan River, below the US-23 bridge. The facility consists of an office and maintenance building with 132 ft of river frontage where the R/V *Sturgeon* and R/V *Arcticus* are docked.



Improvements to CVB during 2011-2012 included: new sea walls and bulkheading, updated security and lighting, acquisition of an



environmentally-friendly pump-out station, paving of the parking lot, and renovations of office and maintenance spaces.

Partners

The GLSC collaborates with a diversity of management and research partners through work completed on-board the R/V *Sturgeon* and R/V *Arcticus*. The principle partners are the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Council of Lake Committees, including the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron Lake Committees and Lake Technical Committees. The USGS shares CVB with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who moors the fish stocking vessel, *M/V Spencer F Baird*.



The R/V Arcticus (middle) and R/V Sturgeon (right), with the M/V Spencer F. Baird (left) at Cheboygan Vessel Base.



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