HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL





Northwestern Michigan College Underserved Communities
Mapping and Charting
Needs in the Great Lakes
Region





4 keynotes speakers

17 technical sessions

Equipment demos

19 industry sponsors

Student-Employer roundtable

Regional chapter event (MTS/THSOA)



LAKEBED 2030 CONFERENCE



Objectives:

- □ Detail the scientific, economic, and environmental value associated with the high-resolution mapping of the Great Lakes
- Raise awareness of the economic and environmental significance of the Great Lakes
- □ Showcase the mapping work being done in the ecosystem
- **□** Demonstrate the latest technologies used in the Great Lakes





OCEANS 2025 - Great Lakes September 29 - October 2, 2025



LAKEBED 2030 CONFERENCE



Key Outcomes, Messages, Gaps:

- NOAA's renewed focus on the Great Lakes
- No regional strategy to facilitate mapping the Great Lakes
- Lack of focus on underserved populations and communities
- Missed opportunities for technology development (tech innovation)
- Lack of understanding of the economics and environmental significance of the Great Lakes (messaging)
- □ OCEANS 25 Great Lakes Focus (next opportunity)

Who we are



GREAT LAKES WATER STUDIES INSTITUTE



Academic Programs

Professional Development

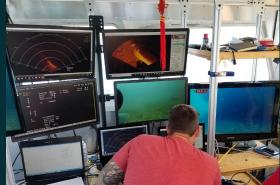
Applied Research

Innovation

Located at the Great Lakes Campus on Lake Michigan, the <u>Great Lakes Water</u> <u>Studies Institute</u> at Northwestern Michigan College is strategically positioned to engage individuals and organizations in advancing their technical skills and understanding of the world's dynamic water resources.









GREAT LAKES WATER STUDIES INSTITUTE



Marine Technology
Bachelor of Science
Associates degree

<u>Freshwater Studies</u> Associates degree

Water Quality
Environmental Technician
Associates degree



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Technical training

CEUs/PDUs

Micro-credentials

Webinars

Conferences & events



APPLIED RESEARCH

NOAA
DOI - NPS
USCG
ONI
Law Enforcement
Thunder Bay Marine
National Sanctuary
US Army Corps of
Engineers
GL Fisheries Trust
Consumers Energy



AquaHacking Challenge

- Focused on Great Lakes issues
- 200⁺ participants from the US and Canada
- \$50,000 in seed funding for the top 3 teams

Freshwater Research & Innovation Center

- 38,000 sq ft facility
- Open spring 2027
- Focused on blue tech

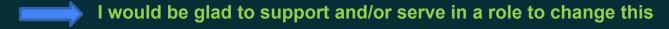




Blue Tech Workforce Education and Training

Problems, Concerns, Gaps:

- Shortage of new talent entering the field shortage of employees
- Lack of understanding regarding what a blue tech career entails
- Poor correlation between academic programs and jobs
- Lack of awareness on career pathways and training to support these
- Lack of focus on underserved populations or how to <u>effectively</u> reach these groups to understand their respective needs
- Lack of diversity in the workforce



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THANK YOU!

Underserved Communities Mapping and Charting Needs in the Great Lakes Region

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