



---

## Intra-Departmental Report

---

# GREAT LAKES SHORE LINES MEASUREMENTS (3rd edition, revised)

Compiled by

R. W. Kelley, geologist  
W. H. Colburn, land use specialist

Lansing  
1964

## **PREFACE**

Facts and figures on Michigan's Great Lakes shore lines are frequently sought from this department. Hence, the need for reliable and standard data. The Department of Conservation has a very real interest in this field because of its many responsibilities with regard to the various natural resources associated with these shore lines.

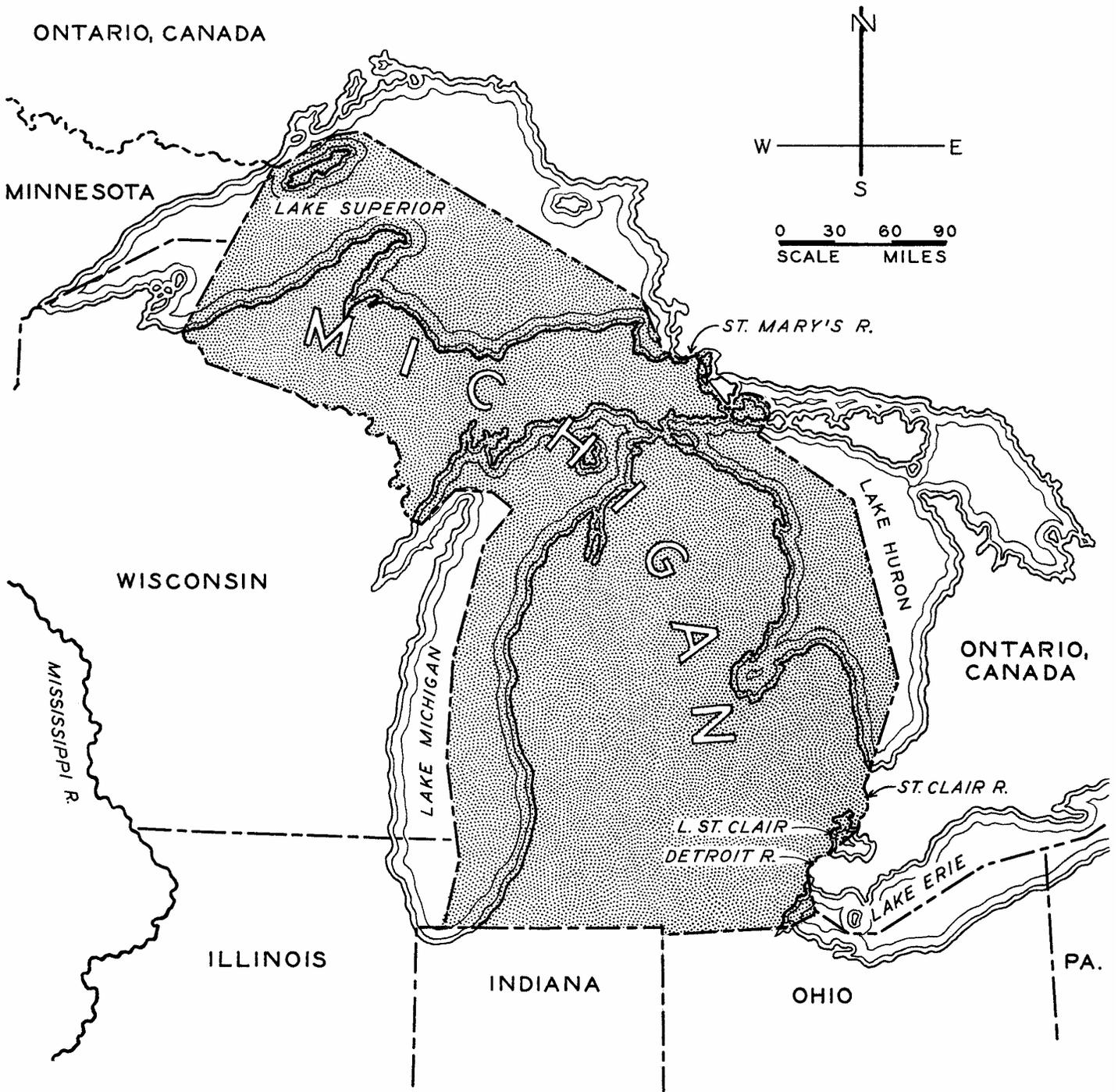
Although we believe our figures are the most accurate now available, it is conceivable that better information can be developed from a more thorough and precise survey. Until such work is accomplished, however, either by this organization or another, these data sheets constitute the standard reference within this department.

For several years now, the Co-ordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydrologic Data has been compiling basic statistics. One of the projects of this international group is the uniform measurement of all shore lines of the Great Lakes. Agencies participating include: 1) U. S. Lake Survey, 2) U. S. Geological Survey, 3) Canadian Dept. of Mines and Technical Surveys, 4) Canadian Dept. of Transport, and 4) Canadian Dept, of Northern Affairs and National Resources. A project completion date, however, has not been scheduled.

For a discussion of the problems in measuring shore lines and evaluating such data, see "How Long is Michigan's Coast Line?" in the March 1956 issue of Michigan Conservation.

The accompanying Data Sheets were prepared and issued with the advice and counsel of E. E. Tucker, F. Fanselow, C. H. Wonsler, and J. Maslow-ski, who along with the authors, comprised an ad hoc departmental advisory cotranittee appointed in 1960 by Deputy Director Walker. The April 1960, and April 1961 editions of these sheets should be discarded.

October 27, 1964



SHORE LINES AND POLITICAL BOUNDARIES  
 IN THE  
 WESTERN AND CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

GREAT LAKES SHORE LINES

DATA SHEET NO. 1

Length of shore line in Michigan  
(Statute Miles)

	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Islands</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lakes (Total)	2,147	*905	*3,052
Connecting Rivers (Total)	85	*151	*236
Lake Superior <sup>1</sup>	583	334	917
St. Marys River <sup>3</sup>	22	69	91
Lake Michigan <sup>2</sup>	862	196	1,058
Lake Huron <sup>2</sup>	622	312	934
St. Clair River <sup>5</sup>	36 (includes 9 mi. in St. Clair Flats)	*45 (all in St. Clair Flats)	*81
Lake St. Clair <sup>5</sup>	44	*45 (all in St. Clair Flats)	*89
Detroit River <sup>4</sup>	27	37	64
Lake Erie <sup>4</sup>	36	18	54
Grand Total	2,232	1,056	3,288

\* Denotes revision from previous issue.

<sup>1</sup> From "Shoreline of the Great Lakes and Connecting Rivers", U. S. Lake Survey File No. 3-3284 corrected in 1952, except shore line between Brush and Vessel points, about 4 miles, has been added.

<sup>2</sup> From U. S. Lake Survey source cited above, except shore line between Point Detour and Neebish Island vicinity is assigned to Lake Huron instead of St. Marys River.

<sup>3</sup> R. W. Kelley, 1958, measurements on U. S. Lake Survey charts.

<sup>4</sup> R. W. Kelley, 1958, measurements on U. S. Geological Survey 7½-minute quadrangles.

<sup>5</sup> R. W. Kelley and W. H. Colburn, 1961, measurements on U. S. Geological Survey 7½-minute quadrangles.

GREAT LAKES SHORE LINES

DATA SHEET NO. 2

Length of shore line in U. S. and Canada  
(Statute Miles)

	Lakes			Connecting Rivers			Grand Total
	Mainland	Islands	Total	Mainland	Islands	Total	
Michigan <sup>1</sup>	2,147	*905	*3,052	85	*151	*236	3,288
Minnesota <sup>2</sup>	180	9	189	-	-	-	189
Wisconsin <sup>2</sup>	575	245	820	-	-	-	820
Illinois <sup>2</sup>	63	-	63	-	-	-	63
Indiana <sup>2</sup>	45	-	45	-	-	-	45
Ohio <sup>2</sup>	246	66	312	-	-	-	312
Pennsylvania <sup>2</sup>	51	-	51	-	-	-	51
New York <sup>2</sup>	371	37	408	37	28	65	473
Total U. S.	3,678	*1,262	*4,940	122	*179	*301	5,241
Ontario	2,904	1,893	4,797	178	152	330	5,127
Grand Total	6,582	*3,155	*9,737	300	*331	*631	10,368

\* Denotes revision from previous issue.

1 From Data Sheet No. 1.

2 From "Shoreline of the Great Lakes and Connecting Rivers", U. S. Lake Survey, File No. 3-3284, corrected to 1952.

GREAT LAKES SHORE LINES

DATA SHEET NO. 3

Length of shore line in separate basins  
(Statute Miles)

	Michigan <sup>1</sup>	Minnesota <sup>2</sup>	Wisconsin <sup>2</sup>	Illinois <sup>2</sup>	Indiana <sup>2</sup>	Ohio <sup>2</sup>	Pennsylvania <sup>2</sup>	New York	Total U. S.	Ontario <sup>2 and 3</sup>	Grand Total
Lake Superior	917	189	325	-	-	-	-	-	1,431	1,549	2,980
St. Marys River	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	206	297
Lake Michigan	1,058	-	495	63	45	-	-	-	1,661	-	1,661
Lake Huron	934	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	934	2,416	3,350
St. Clair River	*81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*81	47	*128
Lake St. Clair	*89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*89	71	*160
Detroit River	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	43	107
Lake Erie	54	-	-	-	-	312	51	77	494	366	860
Niagara River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	65	34	99
Lake Ontario	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	331	331	395	726
Totals	3,288	189	820	63	45	312	51	473	5,241	5,127	10,368

\* Denotes revision from previous issue.

1 From Data Sheet No. 1.

2 From "Shoreline of the Great Lakes and Connecting Rivers", U. S. Lake Survey, File No. 3-3284, corrected to 1952.

3 Ontario has 2,045 miles of islands shore line of which 657 miles are in Lake Superior and 1,143 miles in Lake Huron.

GREAT LAKES SHORE LINES

DATA SHEET NO. 4

Length of Shore Line administered by  
the Michigan Department of Conservation and the U. S. Forest Service

	Lakes						Connecting Rivers				Grand Total
	Superior	Michigan	Huron	St. Clair	Erie	Total	St. Marys	St. Clair	Detroit	Total	
Total Miles Shore	917	1,058	934	89	54	3,083	91	81	64	205	3,288

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Forests	28.89	84.78	53.88	0	0	167.55	0	0	0	0	167.55
Parks	43.07	47.71	20.10	0	1.54	112.42	0	0	0	0	112.42
Game Areas	0	49.15	19.65	29.50	12.10	110.40	0	9.50	0	9.50	119.90
Other Access	2.52	4.34	2.13	.05	.06	9.10	1.35	.02	0	1.37	10.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.48</b>	<b>185.98</b>	<b>95.76</b>	<b>29.55</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>399.47</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>9.52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10.87</b>	<b>410.34</b>

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

<b>Total</b>	<b>25.62</b>	<b>19.75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45.37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45.37</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>100.10*</b>	<b>205.73</b>	<b>95.76</b>	<b>29.55</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>444.84</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>9.52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10.87</b>	<b>455.71</b>

\*This figure does not include Isle Royale which is administered by the National Park Service. According to measurements made by the U. S. Lake Survey, the shore line of Isle Royale is 196 miles. It would appear that this does not include the many small islets in the archipelago.

GREAT LAKES SHORE LINES

DATA SHEET NO. 5

Percent of Shore Line administered by  
the Michigan Department of Conservation and the U. S. Forest Service

	Lakes						Connecting Rivers				Grand Total
	Superior	Michigan	Huron	St. Clair	Erie	Total	St. Marys	St. Clair	Detroit	Total	
Total Miles Shore	917	1,058	934	89	54	3,083	91	81	64	205	3,288

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Forests	3.1	8.0	5.8	0	0	5.4	0	0	0	0	5.1
Parks	4.7	4.5	2.2	0	2.9	3.6	0	0	0	0	3.4
Game Areas	0	4.6	2.1	33.1	22.4	3.6	0	11.7	0	4.6	3.6
Other Access	.3	.4	.2	.06	.1	.3	1.5	.02	0	.7	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>12.4</b>

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

Total	2.8	1.9	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	1.4
-------	-----	-----	---	---	---	-----	---	---	---	---	-----

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>13.8</b>
--------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	-------------	----------	------------	-------------