

Press Release – Monday September 3, 2013

WISCONSIN PORTS WEEK – September 9-15

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker declared September 9-15 “**Wisconsin Ports Week.**”

Washington Island Ferry Line, Inc., as a member of the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association and provider of year around ferry transportation between Detroit Harbor, Washington Island, and Northport Pier on the Door Peninsula, joins in this week-long effort to promote Wisconsin ports.

Two things will happen on Washington Island in the next two weeks that will coincide with Wisconsin Ports Week:

1. The Town of Washington Detroit Harbor channel dredging project, enabled by the \$5.2 million in special funding approved in June by the Wisconsin State Legislature and by Governor Walker, will begin in mid-September.

Roen Salvage Company of Sturgeon Bay has been awarded the contract and is expected to mobilize their equipment to Washington Island by mid-September. Dredging of the channel will commence when preparations for digging and the disposal of spoils have been readied. This project is expected to continue through the remainder of 2013 until freeze-up, with continuation until completion in 2014. This will be the largest dredging project in Detroit Harbor since 1937, the year when the channel was originally dug. This dredging is designed to counter low Lake Michigan water levels such as those experienced in recent years. It will ensure critical water transportation needs for the island community, and for all who depend upon regular transport of people, vehicles and freight via commercial water route.

2. The Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association members will hold their annual conference at Washington Island at the Historic Island Dairy the afternoon of Sept. 12 and morning of Sep. 13. Wisconsin government officials, commercial port representatives, marine suppliers and contractors will meet to exchange ideas and information on topics such as water quality, water levels, port infrastructure, port cargo volumes, available funding for port projects and the continuing importance of maritime commerce.

Washington Island Ferry Line, Inc., host for the WCPA meeting, operates in relatively small port settings, but with critical daily transportation of passengers, vehicles and cargo. The Northport Harbor protective breakwater was completed in October 1994 with help of a WISDOT Harbor Assistance Program Grant administered through the County of Door. The Northport harbor protection greatly improved landing safety, along with greater reliability of ferry service since the time of its construction. Xxx end xxx