



Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas



A map atlas for paddling
Lake Huron from the Straits of
Mackinac to Saginaw Bay

www.heritage23.org

Welcome to the Huron Blueways!

The Huron Blueways is a 265-mile water trail stretching from the Straits of Mackinac down to Saginaw Bay. Paddling Lake Huron is a unique experience - maritime history and breathtaking views are abundant along the Huron Blueways.

The Huron Blueways paddling atlas is brought to you by the US 23 Heritage Route...
a Pure Michigan Byway.

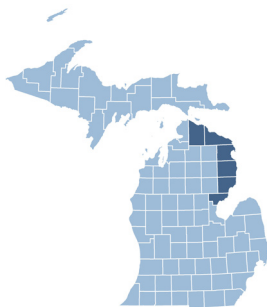


Photo courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)

By using this pamphlet, you agree that you understand and accept the following Safety Statement:

The Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas is offered as a general guide to recreation, with information provided by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, state agencies, and volunteer groups. By providing this general information, including all topics or other website links, the editors do not assume any liability for the use of this information, the skill level or abilities of the reader. Editors of the Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas assume the reader understands that paddlesports pose significant risk of injury or fatality. Persons reading this information are strongly advised to seek the necessary hands-on training in basic paddlecraft handling, paddlecraft trip planning, first aid and CPR as a responsible and necessary precaution for this sport. The reader recognizes that he or she, of their own personal choice, assumes all risk of property damage, personal injury or fatality and agrees to hold Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas and its editors harmless from any liability as a result of their interpretation of the information provided in the atlas. In addition, while the editors of the Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas have made every effort possible to ensure that the information in the atlas is accurate, the editors make no warranty of the accuracy or completeness of this information. Readers are encouraged to verify details with a local, knowledgeable source prior to making any travel plans.

Cover Images:

Kayaker over Albany courtesy of Photic Zone

Stand-Up Paddleboarder courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)

How to Use this Atlas

This booklet contains important information that will help you plan a trip to experience the wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in addition to paddling and being safe.

For the maps, distances are given in both Miles and Kilometers.

The distances start with "0" measurement at Wilderness State Park on Lake Michigan and distance continuously increases southward in Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay.

The line representing the Huron Blueways is shown 500 feet from shore. All distances from access to access are calculated at this 500 foot line.

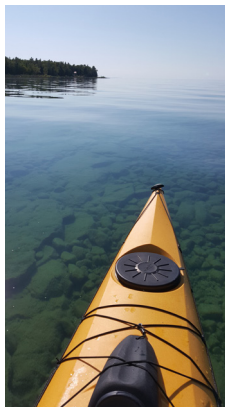


Photo courtesy of Michael Beaulac

MAP KEY

● Public Access Site



Lighthouse



Shipwreck



Non-Motorized Trail



State Highways



Roads



County Line



Lakes



Rivers



Cities & Villages



State Land



Huron National Forest

Amenities at Public Accesses:



Hand Launch or
Dedicated Kayak Launch



Boat Launch



Parking



Restroom or Pit Toilet

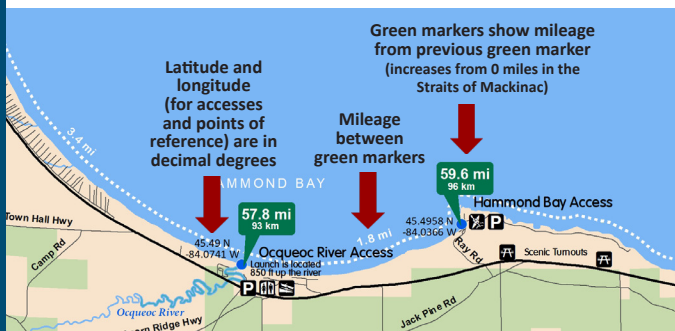


Picnic



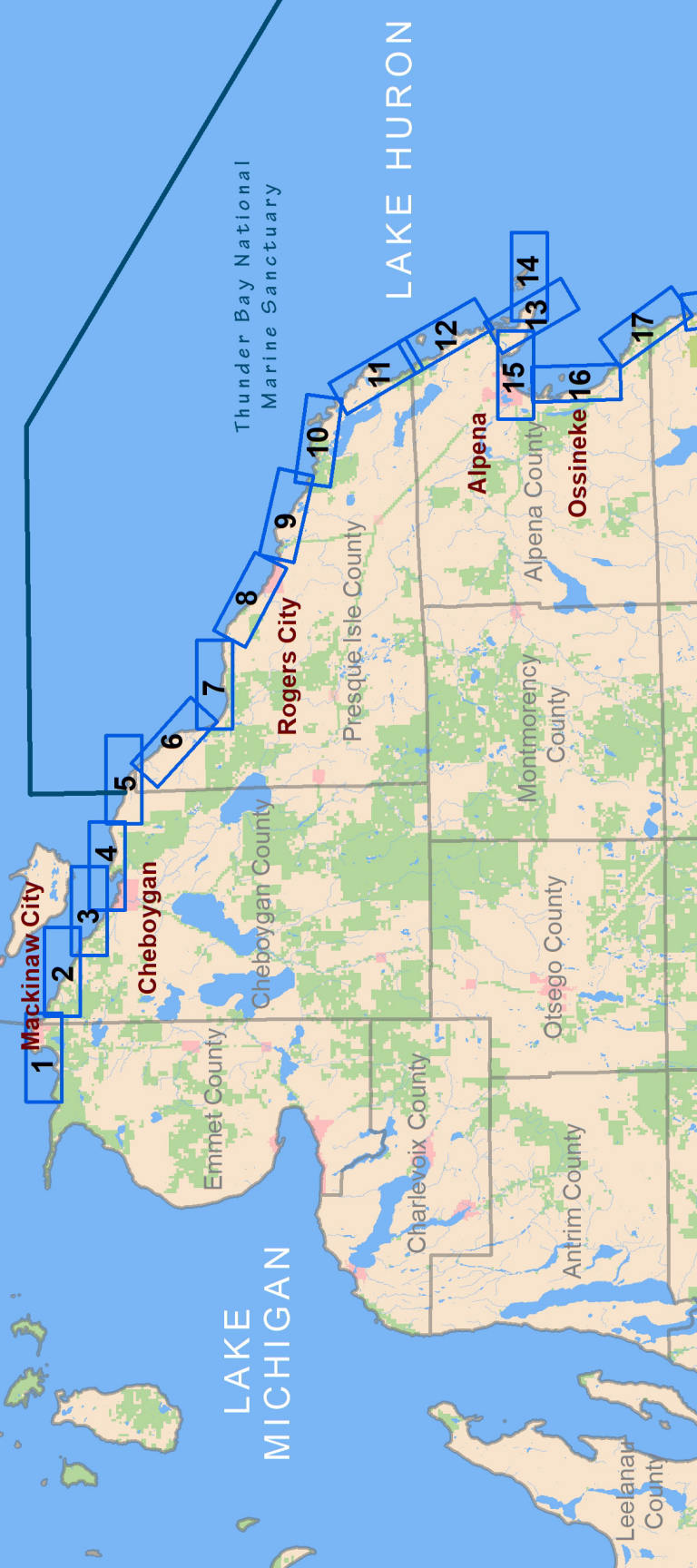
Campground

**Shipwreck coordinates available at:
THUNDERBAY.NOAA.GOV**



7 Ocqueoc River

Miles 55 - 65



LAKE
MICHIGAN

LAKE HURON

Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

1 Mackinaw City

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Cheboygan

Cheboygan County

Emmet County

Rogers City

Presque Isle County

Alpena

Alpena County

Ossineke

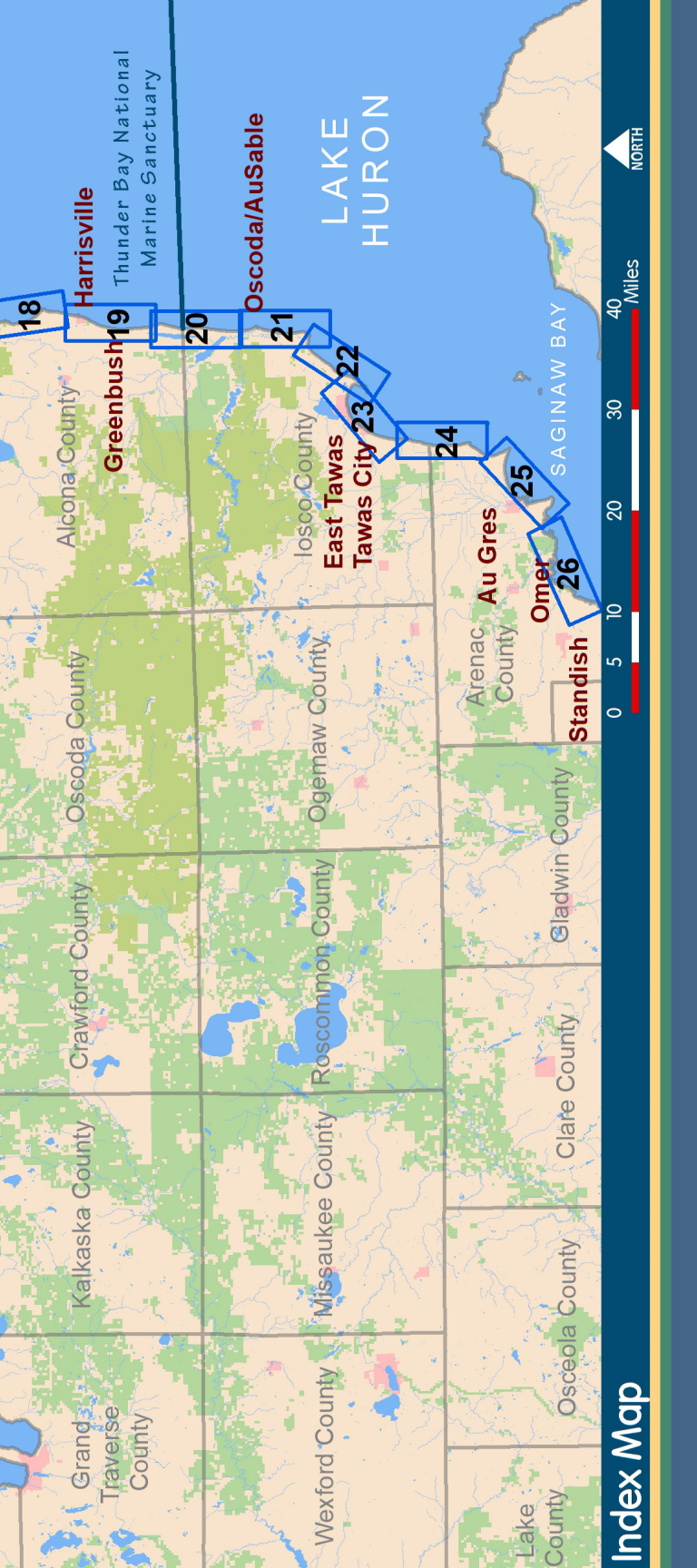
Montmorency County

Otsego County

Charlevoix County

Antrim County

Leelanau County



Grand
Traverse
County

Kalkaska County

Crawford County

Oscoda County

Alcona County

Wexford County

Missaukee County

Roscommon County

Ogemaw County

Hosco County

East Tawas

Tawas City

Au Gres

Lake
County

Osceola County

Clare County

Gladwin County

Arenac
County

Omer

Standish

SAGINAW BAY

LAKE
HURON

Harrisville

Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

Greenbush

Oscoda/AuSable

Index Map



Shipwrecks



"Defiance": Photo courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (and State of Michigan Underwater Preserve) was established to protect one of America's best-preserved and nationally-significant collection of shipwrecks in an area known as "Shipwreck Alley." The TBNMS covers a 4,300 square mile area off the coast of Presque Isle, Alpena, and Alcona Counties to the international boundary. On the maps, the names of the shipwrecks which are located within the TBNMS are displayed because the wrecks have been verified. Shipwrecks which are shown on the map outside of the TBNMS boundary are shown without names and should be considered unverified wrecks. Visit the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena to learn more! thunderbay.noaa.gov



Negwegon State Park: Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR

Camping

\$ Some access sites may require a fee if you enter them by vehicle to launch.

For more information on camping the State and National Forests, please see the following sites:

State Land:

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Huron National Forest:

www.fs.usda.gov/activity/hmnf/recreation/camping-cabins

www.forestcamping.com

Safety Best Practices

Safety Rules:

Always get up-to-date marine weather reports. Always have proper paddling safety gear. Follow manufacturer's boat and equipment warnings and recommendations.

Safety and Rescue Courses:

For open and closed boaters who are just learning to paddle we recommend to learn how to rescue yourself and others, how to identify and avoid water hazards, dress to avoid hypothermia, learn what you can do to assist your rescuer and simple boat recovery.

Gear:

Sea Kayaks (16-19 feet) are recommended for use on the Great Lakes. Sealed bulkheads in a kayak are essential. ALWAYS wear an accredited personal floatation device (PFD). Dress appropriately, consider both air and water temperatures. We recommend always having a paddle float, handheld/portable bilge pump, paddle leash, compass, spray skirt, two signaling devices, whistle, cell phone, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, VHF Radio, or waterproof flashlight with you when paddling on the water trails. Bring water, maps, and sunscreen or a hat.

Barge Traffic:

Freighters and large commercial vessels travel throughout the Great Lakes. Remember that they have right-of-way and may be limited in their ability to spot or respond to the movement of smaller crafts.

Hazards:

Be on the lookout for obstructions near the shoreline, including floating debris, shallow areas, submerged stumps, logs and rocks.

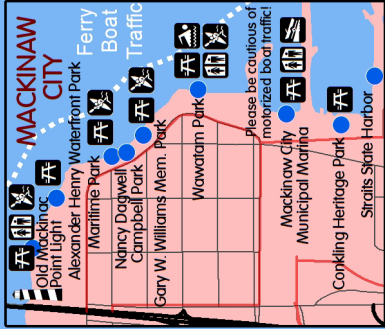
Protect Yourself From Hypothermia:

Cold water kills quickly. Wearing a lifejacket can save your life! It can double your survival time in cold water. If stranded, do not try to swim. Remain still to conserve heat and assume the fetal, or Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). This position only works if you wear a life jacket. If your boat capsizes, stay with the boat if it is still afloat. Get yourself as far out of the water as possible. This will help stave off the effects of hypothermia and offer a much larger target to those that may be searching for you. If stranded in groups, huddle together to preserve body heat. Dress appropriately for the water conditions.

Access and Use:

Beyond the publicly owned sites outlined on our maps, much of the shoreline is privately held. Do not risk trespassing by landing on areas not marked on-site or on the map. Some water trail stops are located on public land, which may also be used for hunting. Wear orange in season to ensure your safety.

Cell service is absent or limited in many areas along the Lake Huron shoreline. Proceed with caution!



LAKE MICHIGAN

Paddling in the straits can be difficult due to wind, waves and current.

CECIL BAY

Cecil bay is shallow with underwater boulders. Depth of water is less than 12' for one mile around shoreline. Private homes along shoreline.



Wilderness State Park to Mackinaw City Miles 1 - 14

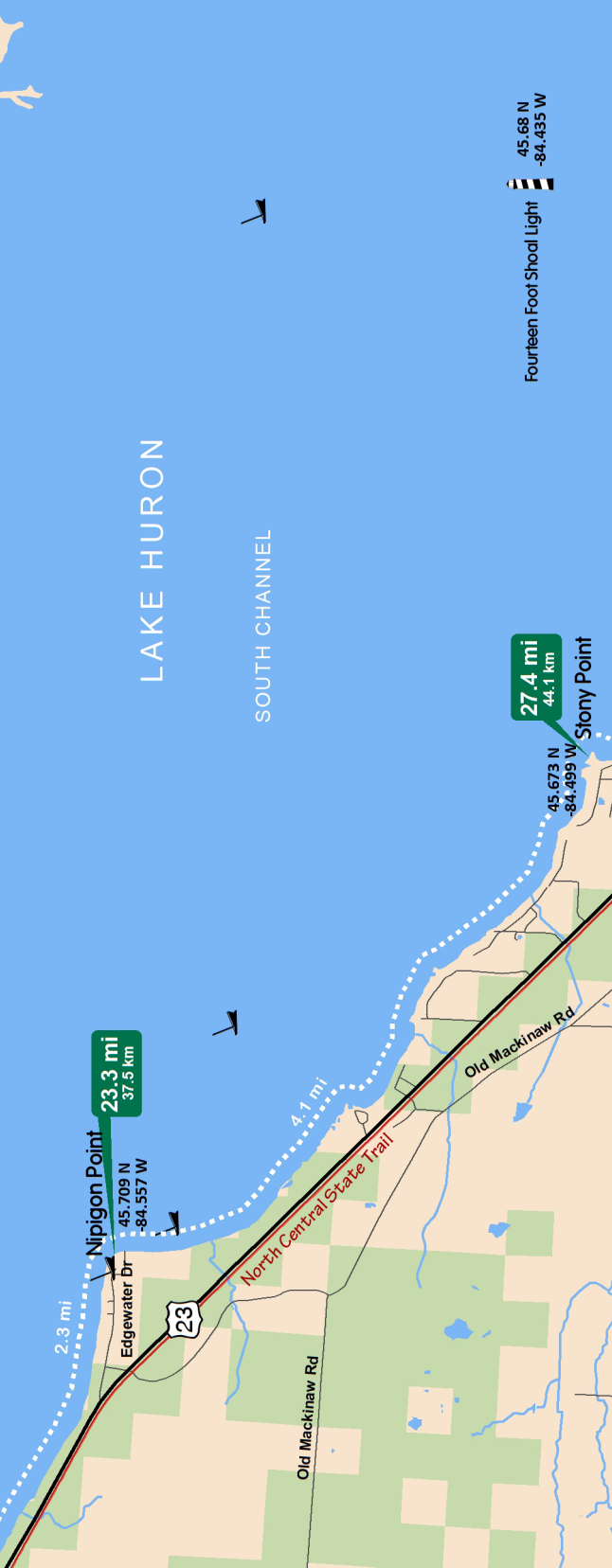




2 Mackinaw City to Historic Mill Creek

Miles 14-21





3 Nipigon Point to Stony Point

Miles 21 - 27

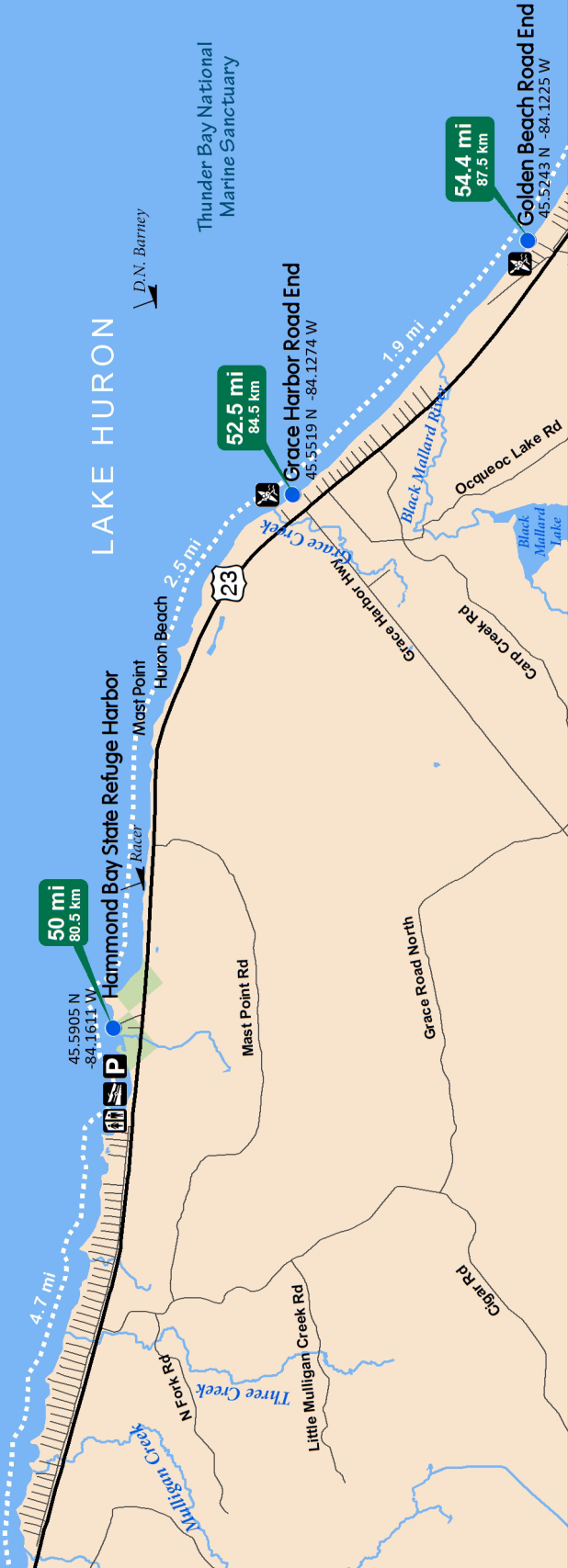


LAKE HURON



5 Huron Shores Roadside Park

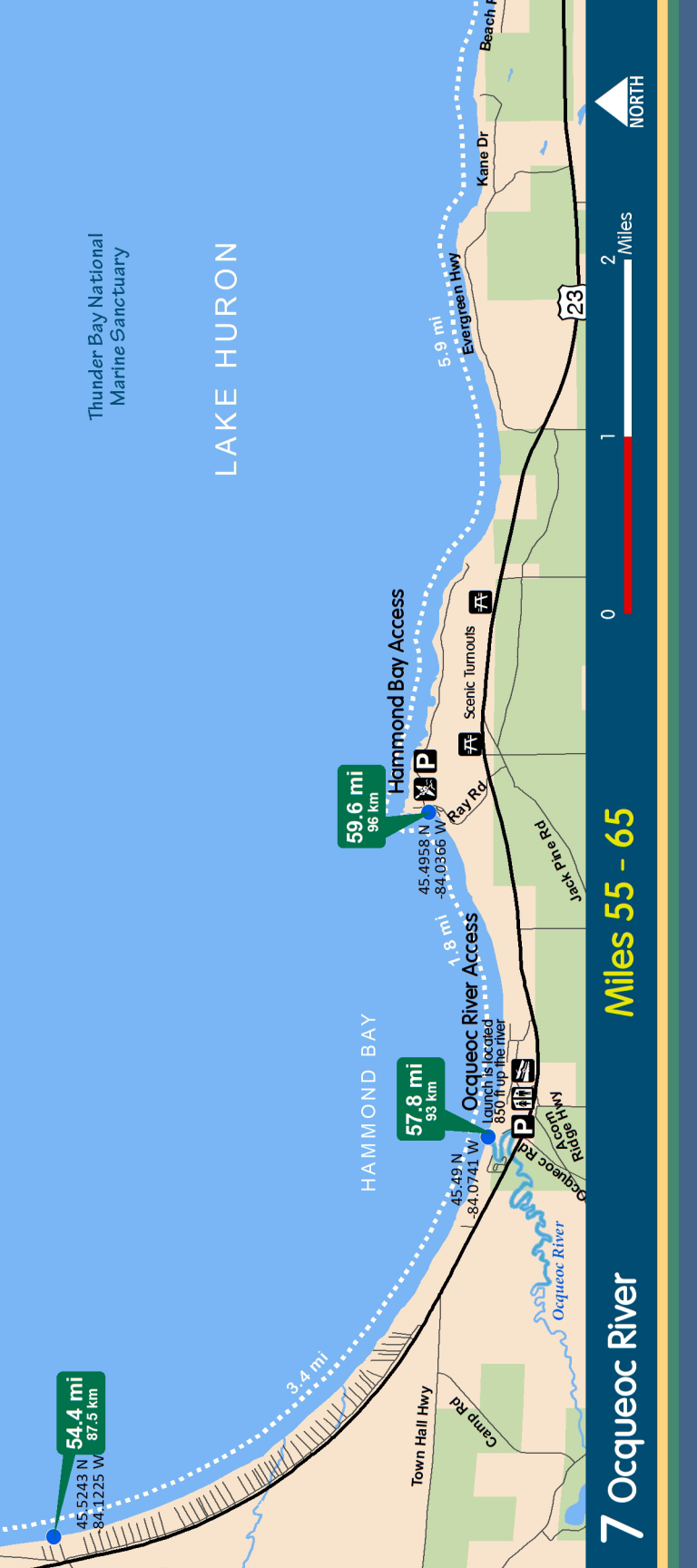
Miles 40 - 47



0 1 2 Miles

Miles 47 - 55

6 Hammond Bay State Refuge Harbor



54.4 mi
87.5 km

45.5243 N
-84.1225 W

3.4 mi

57.8 mi
93 km

Ocqueoc River Access
Launch is located
850 ft up the river

45.49 N
-84.0741 W

59.6 mi
96 km

Hammond Bay Access

45.4958 N
-84.0366 W

1.8 mi

5.9 mi

Evergreen Hwy

Kane Dr

Beach P

7 Ocqueoc River

Miles 55 - 65

0 1 2 Miles

NORTH



LAKE HURON

Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

Recreational boat traffic

Herman Vogler
Conservation Area



8 40 Mile Point to Rogers City Miles 65 - 74

45.415 N
-83.716 W • Adams Point

78.1 mi
125.7 km

Great Lakes
freighter traffic

75.9 mi
122.1 km

2.2 mi
Duncan
City

45.412 N
-83.759 W

W.G. Mason

Quarry Point

Chester B. Jones

Little Lake

Swan Lake

Swan River

LAKE HURON

Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

6.3 mi

Big Trout
Lake

Little
Trout
Lake

84.4 mi
135.8 km

Observatory Point

45.364 N
-83.615 W

Thompson's Harbor State Park

9 Rogers City to Thompson's Harbor State Park **Miles 74-85**



Miles





11 Rockport State Recreation Area Miles 100 - 114



LAKE HURON

Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

Middle Island Light
is appx 3 miles from
Rockport

113.1 mi
182.0 km

119.8 mi
192.8 km

123.1 mi
198.1 km

124.8 mi
200.8 km

12 Middle Island

Miles 113 - 125





13 North Point

Miles 125 - 136





14 Thunder Bay Island





15 City of Alpena

Miles 136 - 145



P Parking is available at all City of Alpena parks

🚻 Restrooms are available at Bayview Park, the Alpena Marina, and Starlite Beach.



16 Alpena to Ossineke

Miles 145 - 156





William H. Stevens

Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

LAKE HURON

Alvin Buckingham

W.H. Rounds

Ishpeming



Loretta

158 mi
254.3 km

44.9034 N
-83.3951 W

Shua Harbor



165.3 mi
266 km

44.8555 N
-83.3217 W



Negwegon State Park

ALPENA COUNTY
E Negwegon Park Rd

Wilds Rd

168.4 mi
271 km

44.8161 N
-83.3805 W

Alcona Township Park



ADA canoe/kayak
launch available

Miles 157 - 169

17 Negwegon State Park to Black River





Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

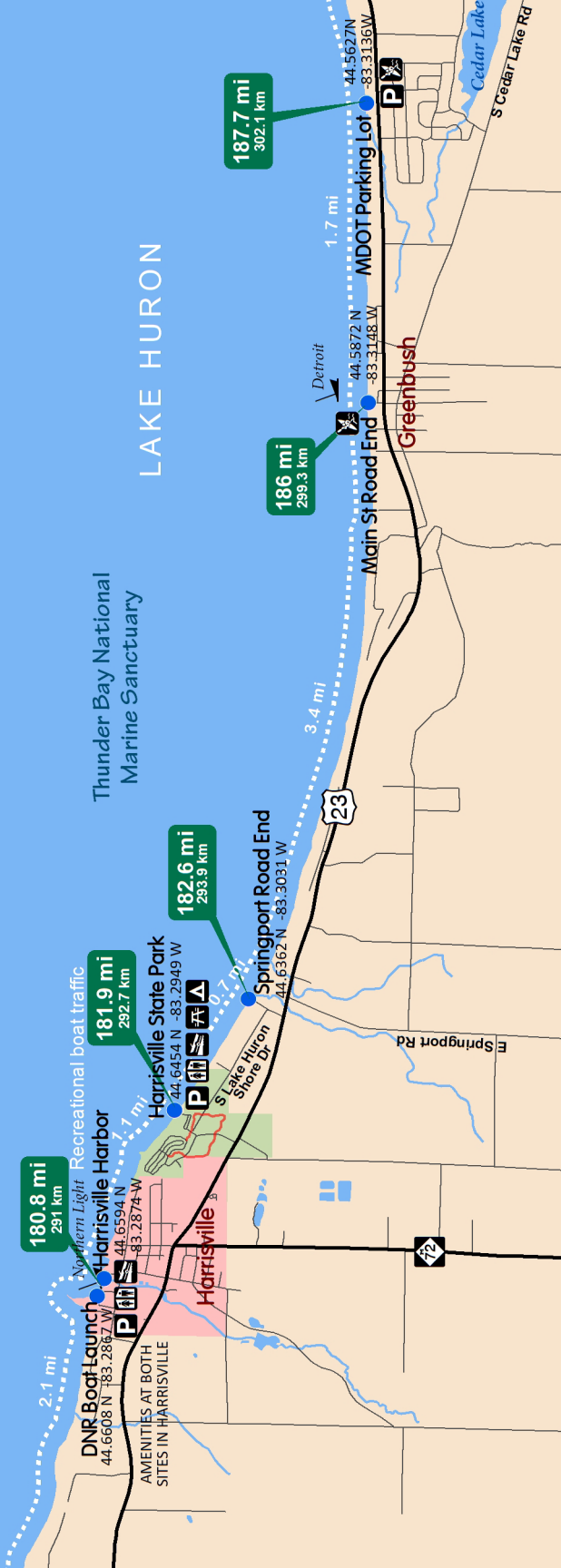
LAKE HURON



18 Sturgeon Point

Miles 169 - 179





19 Harrisville & Greenbush

Miles 179 - 188



Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary

MARINE
SANCTUARY
BOUNDARY

3.9 mi

191.6 mi
308.4 km

44.5073 N
-83.319 W



Lake to Lake Road End

3.6 mi

Oscoda
Township
Park



44.4719 N -83.3211 W

44.4697 N -83.3217 W



MDOT Roadside Park



3.4 mi

S Cedar Lake Rd

Cedar Lake Boat Launch



Cedar Lake

23

ALCONA COUNTY

OSCO COUNTY

Van Etten Lake

Van Etten Creek

Oscoda

Au Sable River

LAKE HURON

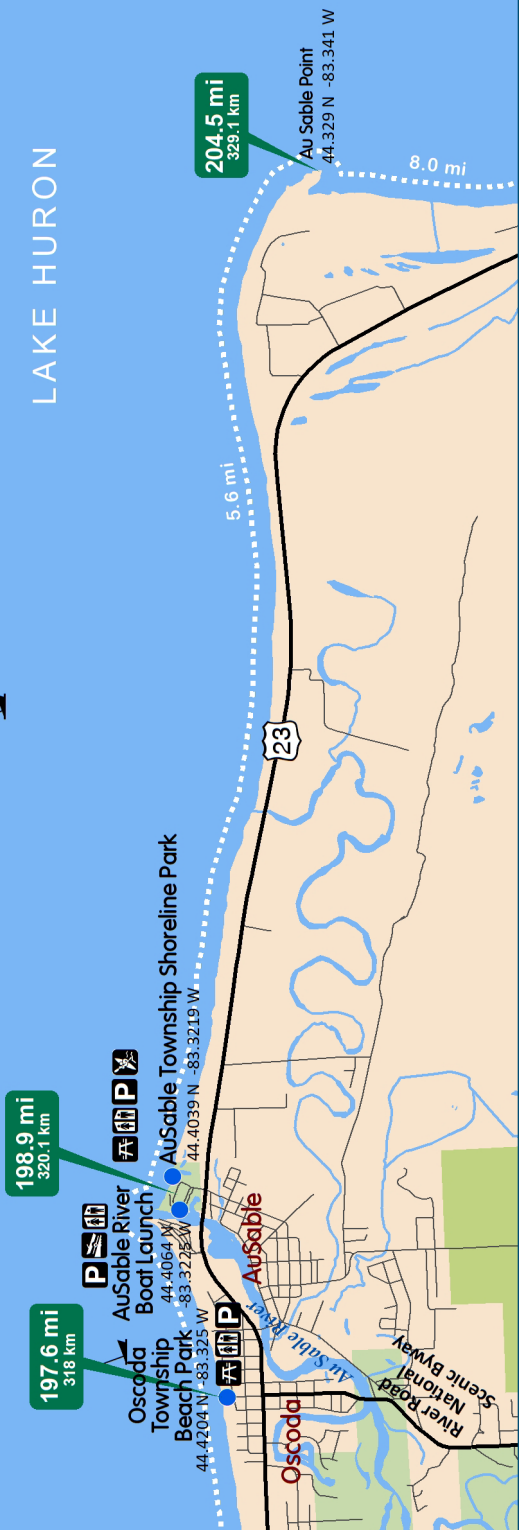
20 Greenbush to Oscoda

Miles 188 - 197





LAKE HURON



21 Oscoda & AuSable

Miles 197 - 205

204.5 mi
329.1 km

Au Sable Point
44.329 N -83.341 W

LAKE HURON

8.0 mi

23

Road End Tawas Point Lighthouse

44.2543N
-83.4441W

212.5 mi
342 km

P

44.2653N
-83.4397W

215.4 mi
346.7 km

TAWAS BAY

2.9 mi

Tawas Beach Point Rd

Tawas Point State Park

22 Au Sable Point to Tawas Point

Miles 204 - 216

0 1 2 Miles

NORTH



23 Tawas City & East Tawas

Miles 215 - 224



Offshore abandoned gypsum
mining loading structure

224.4 mi
361.1 km

Alabaster Road Beach

44.2069 N -83.5528 W

Benson Rd

Alabaster Bike Path & Arboretum

4.4 mi

23

228.8 mi
368.2 km

44.1436 N
-83.5686 W

P

Singing Bridge

2.0 mi

44.115 N -83.566 W

Twining Road End

1.4 mi

230.8 mi
371.4 km

232.2 mi
373.7 km

**Hammell Beach
Road End**

44.101 N -83.573 W

Hammell Beach Rd

233.4 mi
375.6 km

44.086 N -83.588 W

**Bessinger
Road End**

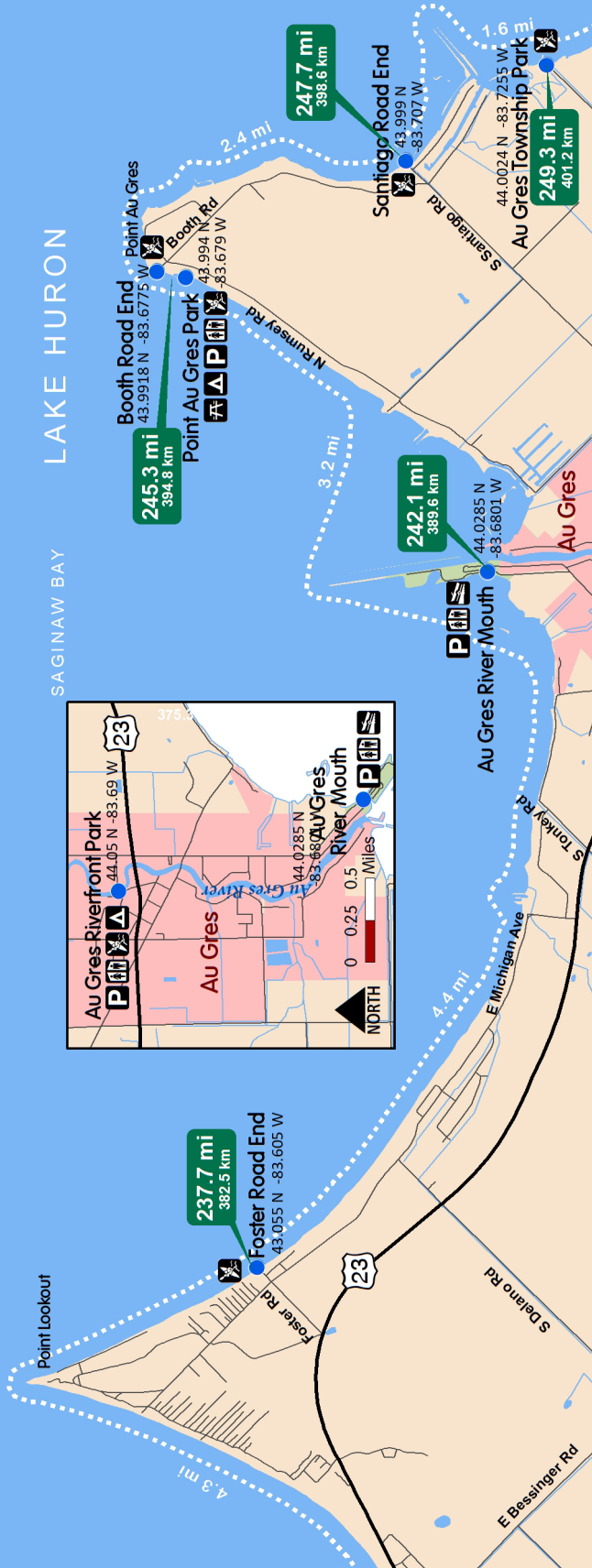
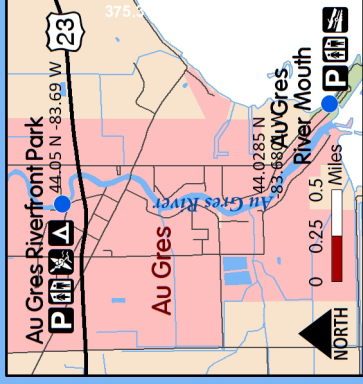
LAKE HURON

24 Alabaster to Bessinger Road

Miles 224 - 233



Point Lookout



25 Au Gres

Miles 233 - 249



LAKE HURON

SAGINAW BAY

253.7 mi
408.3 km

Be prepared: Saginaw Bay water levels can vary in depth with different seasons or with high rainfall events.

4.4 mi

mudflats and open water

private property

mudflats and open water

Best used as a rest stop only.

43.987 N -83.785 W

Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area

Davis Rd
E Gordon Rd
S Big Creek

5.6 mi

P

E Stover Rd

S Hale Rd

From Rife River mouth, it is 6.5 miles to DNR access in Omer

W Langdon Rd

mudflats and open water

259.3 mi
417.3 km

Amenities located 1/3 mile up Pine River

P

Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area

Palmer Rd

Irwin Rd

La Clair Rd

Sagatoo Rd

mudflats and open water

43.952 N -83.881 W

Eagle Bay Marina

P

262.1 mi
421.8 km

Bordeau Road End

43.94 N -83.886 W

Standish Nature Preserve

262.9 mi
423.1 km

Whites Beach Road End

43.929 N -83.89 W

Whites Beach Rd

Miles 249 - 264

26 Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area





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Atlas editing and design provided by: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG). www.nemcog.org

heritage23.org

michiganwatertrails.org