



DOER 24-09 TANNERY BAY, SAULT STE. MARIE, MI SITE VISIT 12 AUGUST 2025



The Project and Site:

DOER 24-09: Identification of Beneficial Use of Sediment and Habitat Restoration Needs at Contaminated Great Lakes Coastal Areas has identified the remediated Tannery Bay Superfund site as an area with exceptional potential for habitat restoration. The adjacent St. Marys River federal channel provides a valuable source of sediment for beneficial use in restoration efforts.

On August 12, 2025, the project team met with Bay Mills Indian Community, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and USACE Soo Lock staff to visit the site. Discussions focused on habitat restoration priorities and strategies for incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into design concepts aimed at enhancing coastal resilience.

Currently, the team is developing drawings and renderings of potential natural and nature-based features. A follow-up meeting with stakeholders and the Tribes is scheduled for early 2026 to review these concepts and gather feedback on proposed habitat uplift ideas.



Top photo: View of Tannery Bay shoreline. Wetlands are present along portions of the shore, though they are dominated by non-native cattail species, which offer limited habitat value.

Middle left: Mussels along the shoreline.

Middle right: Stakeholders during a site visit to Tannery Bay.

Bottom photo: Rock berms now cover parts of the Tannery Bay shoreline, reducing available coastal habitat.

Oblique photos: Oblique aerial images from Michigan Tech (2012) showing Ashmun Bay (left) and Tannery Bay (right), with surrounding shoreline and water features visible..