



## For Immediate Release

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### **State of the Lake details success of Macomb County's Blue Economy Initiative**

County Executive Mark A. Hackel today delivered his second annual State of Lake St. Clair Address for a crowd at MacRay Harbor.

Gathered in front of the Pride of Michigan, an 81-foot former U.S. Navy ship now operated as a research and training vessel by the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps with support from the Noble Odyssey Foundation, Executive Hackel reflected on the Macomb County Blue Economy Initiative and how much has been accomplished since it was launched.

- There is now an increased ability to measure the impact of Lake St. Clair on Macomb County's economy. With 64 public and private marinas and hundreds of businesses that sell or service boats in Macomb County, there are more than 5,700 jobs connected to local blue economy.
- An infusion of \$20 million in federal funds will help to fund 11 projects designed to improve water quality including retention basin expansions, sewer separations, storm sewer cleaning, rapid sampling efforts and more.
- There are more access points to the water as well as a growing number of family-friendly events to help introduce more people to the year around recreational assets offered.
- Macomb County's Blue Economy Initiative is designed to assist coastal and riverine communities to increase and enhance additional public access.

Also distributed at the event is the new Macomb County Blue Economy Industry Profile, a tool developed by the Department of Planning and Economic Development to aid in attracting new investment.

“With access to abundant fresh water, Macomb County is a great place for companies working to develop water-based technologies,” said Executive Hackel.

The event coincides with Michigan Boating and Fishing Week (<http://takemefishing.org/nfbw/>) and was a prelude to National Marina Day (<http://www.nationalmarinaday.org/participants/macray-harbor/>) on June 13. MacRay Harbor is one of many to host a special celebration for the public including activities for children, educational displays, a nautical year sale, boat rides, a \$5 barbeque lunch and an evening concert. The day will also feature tours of the Pride of Michigan and boat inspections. For more information on the Noble Odyssey Foundation, visit <http://www.nobleodyssey.org/>.

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