LEARNING THE ROPES ON THE GREAT LAKES
We were completely taken aback by the gorgeous shoreline of northwestern Michigan. It's hard to believe these beaches are much closer to Canada than the Caribbean.
The first of three major storms to hit Leland, MI on August 1st brews over the lake while Zion prepares the Wildcat.
My little sister Rose spent a few weeks on the boat with us! She braved big waves as well as big bugs and got the nets up front properly broken in for lounging.
The North Channel in Ontario has been a highlight so far of our journey. Crystal clear water and gently sloping granite form a welcoming playground for swimming, hiking, and rock scrambling.
I'm slowly learning how to use Zion's SLR by practicing on any living thing that swims or flies by. We spotted this gang of young common mergansers while anchored near Manitoulin Island.
Here we are literally learning the ropes! On a typical day Zion steers the boat and decides when to sail and when to motor, while I work on our Climate Odyssey map and keep us fed.
In Killarney, ON we watched as the sun set on a crisp, bright evening and rose to a disorienting, other-worldly fog.
We found some treasures while anchored behind Lyal Island waiting for winds from the south to let up.
In Detroit we traded Rose for our friend Duncan who rode the Wildcat, bucking and rolling on some serious waves on Lake Huron, like a pro.
A few more fowl friends made along the way, including a close up of the thousands of cormorants we discovered huddled on Big Chicken Island in Lake Erie.
The residents of Big Chicken Island before (below) and after (above) we approached to get a better look.
Sailing through Detroit gave a different perspective than visiting by car or train. We had a front row seat to flashy riverfront parks and skyscrapers as well as the less manicured parts of the city.