



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Big Bay Harbor, MI

Harbor Features

- Located on the south shore of Lake Superior, 33 miles northwest of Marquette, MI and 38 miles east of the portage entry to the Keweenaw Waterway
- Authorization: 1945 Rivers & Harbors Act
- Shallow draft recreational harbor
- Project depth: 12 feet in the entrance channel and 10 feet in the harbor basin
- Approximately 500 feet of maintained federal channel
- More than 1,250 feet of maintained breakwaters
- Dredged material is placed along the beach as beach nourishment.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Michigan DNR, Marquette County Sportsman's Club, and various marinas

Project Requirements

- Requires periodic maintenance dredging on a 3- to 5-year cycle of approximately 11,000 to 19,000 cubic yards. Dredging requirements vary relative to shoaling patterns, usage, placement site and environmental coordination efforts.
- Maintenance dredging was completed in 2019 with FY18 funds, where approximately 12,600 cubic yards of material were removed.
- Maintenance dredging and sediment sampling are currently required.
- The West Breakwater SSP wall experienced intense storms and suddenly failed in Spring 2023. Funding is required to repair the structure and ensure a safe harbor.



Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Loss of jobs locally
- Loss of recreational and charter fishing in the area
- Loss of safe harbor during storm events
- Potential safety issues for recreational boating community

Transportation Importance

- This project serves as an important harbor of refuge and supports charter fishing and recreational navigation interests.
- The local community has established significant infrastructure around the harbor facilities that generates income from harbor users and visitors to the area.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2023, and 2024
Big Bay Harbor, MI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

| Work Package | FY22 Requirement | FY22 Appropriation | FY23 Requirement | FY23 Appropriation | FY24 Requirement | FY24 President’s Budget |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sediment Sampling and Environmental Coordination | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 |
| Maintenance Dredging | 1,030 | 0 | 1100 | 0 | 1,100 | 0 |
| Coastal Navigation Structure Repairs – West Breakwater | 0 | 0 | 250 | 0 | 550 | 0 |
| Real Estate Management | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1,230 | 0 | 1,555 | 5 | 1,856 | 0 |

Congressional Interests

- Representative Jack Bergman R-MI-1
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI