



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN and WI

Harbor Features

- Located at the western end of Lake Superior
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Act of 3 Jun 1896
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- Project depths: 28 to 32 feet in the entrance, 27 feet deep in the commercial route channels, and 20 to 23 feet in inner channels
- 32.5M tons of material shipped and received in 2021
- Ranked 1st in tonnage among Great Lakes harbors and 18th among U.S. ports in 2021
- Over 10,000 feet of structures including breakwaters, piers, and revetments
- Over 18 miles of maintained channel
- Erie Pier Confined Disposal Facility (CDF), located within the St. Louis Bay; has only 3 to 5 years of capacity remaining
- Since 2013, dredged material has been placed in the 21st and 40th shallow water embayments in the harbor, used locally as beach nourishment at MN Point, and in the construction of environmental remediation and endangered habitat projects.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Azcon, BNSF, C. Reiss Coal, Calumet Superior, Canadian National, Cenex Harvest States, CHS, Cleveland-Cliffs, Cutler Magner, Duluth Lake Port, Gavilon Grain LLC, General Mills/Cargill, Great Lakes Cruise Vessels, Greymont LLC, Hallet Dock, Hansen-Mueller Co., Holcim Inc., Lafarge, Marine Tech LLC, Midwest Energy, Murphy Oil, North American Salt Co., Northland Bituminous, and Riverland Aggregates

Project Requirements

- Approximately 110,000 cubic yards of material must be dredged each year.
- The harbor was last dredged in 2022 and funds have been appropriated for dredging in FY23.



- Navigation structures are primarily maintained by the government floating plant. Funds are required for coordination and acquisition of a stone storage dock.
- Sediment sampling and evaluation funding was appropriated in FY23.
- Dredged Material Disposal Facility Maintenance for fine material is required approximately every 3 to 5 years and is currently required.
- Dredged Material Management funding was received in FY23 to conduct research related to beneficial use of dredged material from Erie Pier CDF.
- Funding from the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act was used to design and construct shoreline protection on north side of Duluth office facility due to high water and storm impacts.
- BIL funds have been received to continue design and repairs for South and East Piers of the Duluth Vessel Yard. Additional funding is required to complete repairs to the Vessel Yard North pier
- Facility maintenance is required at the vessel yard and area office.
- Visitor center grounds, doors and restroom repairs are required.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the harbor closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by over 272.2M lbs. of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$60.9M due to increased railroad related accidents and \$40.7M due to increased trucking related accidents.
- Light loading; losses of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth results in increased transportation costs of between \$15.7M and \$30.0M annually
- Loss or relocation of over 11,500 jobs dependent upon port activities
- Cessation or relocation of commercial shipping activity in the region

Transportation Importance

- Major international port on the Great Lakes and harbor of refuge; westernmost harbor in the United States with direct access to the Atlantic Ocean
- Commodities shipped or received include iron ore, coal, forest products, petroleum, grain, general cargo, steel, scrap iron, and wind turbine parts.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$1.6B in business revenue, 6,827 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$579.8M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Generates \$240M in federal and state tax revenue.
- Port of International Trade
- Commodities handled by the Port and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System at large support \$35B in business revenue, 237,868 jobs, and \$14.2B in wages throughout the US and Canada.
- Home port of U.S. Coast Guard’s 225-foot-long cutter Alder. Home to U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary station and Marine Safety Unit, responsible for port safety and security, marine environmental protection, and commercial vessel safety missions under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security.
- Port of Call for Great Lakes Cruise Vessels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2023, and 2024

Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN and WI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)

Work Package	FY22 Requirement	FY22 Appropriation*†	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 President’s Budget
Project Condition Surveys	775	775	793	793	822	822
Maintenance Dredging	2,655	2,655	2,655	2,655	2,690	2,690
Sediment Sampling and Analysis	0	0	2,100	2,100	1,700	1,700
Dredged Material Management	0	0	300	300	0	0
Dredged Material Disposal Facility Fine Material Management	6,000	6,000	0	0	2,100	2,100
Coastal Navigation Structure Maintenance - Gov’t Fleet	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	3,000	3,000
Regional Asset Management	250	250	175	175	265	265

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2023, and 2024
Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN and WI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY22 Requirement	FY22 Appropriation*†	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 President’s Budget
Vessel Yard - South Pier Repairs	13,000	13,000*	0	0	0	0
Vessel Yard - North Pier Repairs	0	0	11,700	0	12,000	0
Vessel Yard Facility Maintenance	3,750	0	3,750	0	3,750	0
Duluth Ship Canal Shoreline Protection - Engineering and Design	250	250	230	230	0	0
Duluth Ship Canal Shoreline Protection - Construction	4,000	4,000†	0	0	0	0
Bunge Stone Dock Coordination and Acquisition	250	0	250	0	250	0
Project Office Facility Maintenance	500	300	200	0	200	0
Industrial Hygiene Services	75	75	15	15	79	79
Cultural Resources Management and Curation	77	77	77	77	74	74
Real Estate Management	45	45	40	40	47	47
Environmental Compliance (ERGO) Management	10	10	5	5	11	11
Recreation Facilities Operations and Maintenance	948	948	838	545	995	512
Recreation Facilities Accessibility, Safety, and Infrastructure Repairs/Modifications	775	0	1,300	0	1,300	0
TOTAL	46,710	30,035	26,078	8,585	29,283	11,300

*Funded with supplemental funds, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

†Funded with supplemental funds, Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA)

Congressional Interests

- Representative Pete Stauber R-MN-8
- Representative Tom Tiffany R-WI-7
- Senator Tina Smith D-MN
- Senator Amy Klobuchar D-MN
- Senator Ron Johnson R-WI
- Senator Tammy Baldwin D-WI