



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Grand Traverse Bay Harbor, MI

Harbor Features

- Located on the south shore of Lake Superior at the mouth of the Traverse River on the eastern shore of Keweenaw Bay, about 20 miles northeast of the portage entry to the Keweenaw Waterway
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Act of 1945
- Shallow draft recreational harbor
- Project depth: 12 feet in the entrance channel and 12 feet in the Traverse River
- Approximately 1,500 feet of maintained federal channel
- Over 1,600 feet of piers, breakwater, and revetments. Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Schoolcraft Township, Native American fishing interests, and local boating interests

Project Requirements

- Approximately 12,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of material must be dredged on a 3- to 5-year cycle.
- Limited local dredging occurred in 2016.
- Dredging of the federal channel occurred in 2019 as part of an ongoing EPA-funded project to address migration of stamp sands from north of the harbor.
- Stamp sand migration from north of the harbor continues to convey more material into the federal channel than previous years, resulting in a significant increase to the frequency of required dredging.
- Maintenance dredging and sediment sampling are currently required.
- Critical structure safety maintenance is required.
- Structure maintenance is required including armor stone placement on the exterior of the piers.



- Replacement of north breakwater timber structure is needed.
- A Section 216 initial assessment was initiated with FY23 funding to determine if changed conditions exist and warrant structure modification.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Damages to property and potential loss of privately owned docks and a public boat launch along riverfront
- Loss of local jobs
- Loss of recreational and charter fishing in the area
- Erosion and pollution of natural shoreline with migrating mining waste, leading to habitat reduction for benthic, marine, and terrestrial organisms, and impacted wetlands.
- Buffalo Reef, nearby, produces approximately \$5M annually from commercial fishing in the region and approximately 22% of commercial fish in southern Lake Superior.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project (cont'd)

- If the migrating stamp sands continue without intervention, Buffalo Reef will die and no longer be a viable spawning habitat.
- Buffalo Reef dying will reduce lake trout and whitefish stocks that sustain tribal and state commercial fishing operations.

Transportation Importance

- This project serves as an important harbor of refuge and supports charter fishing and recreational navigation interests.
- The local community has established 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
Grand Traverse 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
Maintenance Dredging	960	0	960	0	1,030	0
Sediment Sampling, Analysis, and Environmental Coordination	200	0	250	0	250	0
Navigation Structure Repair Engineering and Design	730	0	730	0	730	0
Navigation Structure Maintenance	2,750	0	3,000	0	3,000	0
Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance	50	0	50	0	50	0
Section 216 Initial Appraisal	20	0	20	20	0	0
Real Estate Management	4	0	3	3	3	0
TOTAL	4,714	0	5,013	23	5,063	0

Congressional Interests

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