



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Knife River Harbor, MN

Harbor Features

- Located on the north shore of Lake Superior, near the mouth of the Knife River, about 18 miles northeast of Duluth, MN
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 2 Mar 1945, 3 Sep 1954, and 7 Mar 1974
- Shallow draft recreational harbor
- Project depths range between 8 and 10 feet.
- Approximately 1,000 feet of maintained federal channel
- Approximately 215 foot rubble breakwater with a 30 foot timber crib on the end
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Lake County, town of Knife River, Knife River Marina, Minnesota DNR, and local boating interests

Project Requirements

- Requires periodic maintenance dredging on an infrequent basis
- The harbor was last dredged in 1976 and currently requires maintenance dredging.
- Critical breakwater safety maintenance is currently required.
- Minnesota DNR has requested consideration of breakwater reconfiguration to reduce/eliminate wave action in the entrance channel and inner harbor.
- Repair of navigation structures is required.
- Corrections for potential design deficiencies were authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 and 2007. With receipt of necessary appropriations, the Corps could complete a Section 216 assessment.



Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Reduction in wave attenuation, leading to storm damages and erosion in the harbor
- Failure to dredge will result in continued shoaling and reduced channel dimensions
- Loss of important harbor of refuge
- Loss of local jobs
- Loss of recreational and charter fishing in the area
- Negative economic impact locally and regionally
- Loss of commercial fishing

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.
- A full-service marina is located within the harbor, with 100 seasonal and transient slips, pump-out, boat haul-out and repair, winter storage, yacht club and ship store.
- Harbor contains a mobile boat crane, with a lifting capability of 35 tons
- Boat service work is performed in marina shop

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, 2021, and 2022
Knife River Harbor, MN - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY20 Requirement	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Appropriation	FY22 Requirement	FY22 President's Budget
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	400	0	400	0	700	0
Breakwater Safety Maintenance	0	0	25	0	50	0
Repair of Navigation Structures	0	0	0	0	1,800	0
Section 216 – Breakwater	0	0	20	0	20	0
Real Estate Management	0	0	6	0	6	0
TOTAL	400	0	451	0	2,576	0

Congressional Interests

- Representative Pete Stauber R-MN-8
- Senator Tina Smith D-MN
- Senator Amy Klobuchar D-MN