



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.
- Maintenance dredging is needed. However, a Dredged Material Management Plan Preliminary Assessment is needed to evaluate dredged material placement and/or beneficial use opportunities prior to dredging activities.
- Sediment sampling was conducted with FY23 funds.
- Critical structure safety maintenance is currently required.
- The South Breakwater requires repairs. Engineering and Design funds are needed to initiate this effort and to determine the cost and magnitude of repairs.
- Minnesota DNR has identified problematic wave action within the harbor. Funds are



needed to conduct a wave climate evaluation to inform South Breakwater design efforts.

- A Section 216 Initial Appraisal is being completed with FY23 funds to determine if changed conditions are contributing to wave issues in the harbor.

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) 2023, 2024, and 2025
Knife River Harbor, MN – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 President’s Budget
Maintenance Dredging	750	0	750	0	750	0
Sediment Sampling and Environmental Coordination	200	200	0	0	0	0
Dredged Material Management Preliminary Assessment	300	0	300	0	200	0
Critical Structure Safety Maintenance	50	0	50	0	50	0
Section 216 Initial Appraisal	20	20	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Management	2	2	3	0	3	3
Engineering and Design for Breakwater Repairs	0	0	0	0	1,210	0
Harbor Wave Climate Evaluation	0	0	0	0	400	0
TOTAL	1,322	222	1,103	0	2,613	3

Congressional Interests

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