



Muskegon Harbor, MI

Harbor Features

- Located on the east shore of Lake Michigan, 114 miles northeast of Chicago, IL
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 13 Jun 1902, 3 Mar 1935, 30 Aug 1935, 23 Oct 1962
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- Project depths are 29 feet at the outer harbor entrance and 28 feet in the inner entrance channel. The project depth is 27 feet at the upstream limit of the federal project.
- 1.5M tons of material shipped and received in 2022
- Approximately 6,500 feet of maintained federal channel
- Dredged material from this harbor is used for beach nourishment.
- Over 13,000 feet of structures maintained, including breakwaters, piers, and revetments
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Consumers Energy, Grand Valley State University, Lafarge, Lake Express Ferry Service, Michigan DNR, NOAA, St. Marys Cement, Verplank, West Michigan Dock and Market, a marine contractor, as well as multiple private marinas and charter fishing vessels.

Project Requirements

- Historically the harbor required dredging every 3 to 5 years, but recent shoaling patterns now require annual dredging.
- Maintenance dredging of approximately 60,000 to 90,000 cubic yards is required on an annual basis.
- Shoaling has increased on an annual basis resulting in vessel groundings in 2022, 2023, and 2024. The harbor was dredged in 2022 and 2024 with emergency funds.
- A sediment transport study will be conducted with FY24 funds to evaluate changes in



sediment transport patterns and determine causes of increased shoaling.

- Maintenance dredging will be conducted with FY25 funds and has been identified in the FY26 President's Budget.
- South Revetment sinkhole repairs were investigated and repaired with FY23 funds.
- Funds to conduct design and construct repairs to the North Revetment were provided by the 2022 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Additional construction funds were received in FY25.
- Funding is needed for design of repairs of south breakwater.
- Critical structure safety maintenance will be performed with FY25 funds.
- Dredged Material Management Planning will be initiated with FY25 funds.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the harbor were closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by over 8.4M lbs. of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$1.9M due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$1.3M due to increased trucking related accidents.
- Light loading; loss of between 2 and 3 feet of channel depth results in increased transportation costs of between \$260K and \$440K annually.

Transportation Importance

- Major receiving port on the Great Lakes
- Commodities include primarily sand, gravel, limestone, cement, and concrete
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$79.1M in business revenue, 339 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$24.4M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- The harbor serves as the port for Grand Rapids and the greater West Michigan Region for commercial and recreational traffic, education, and environmental research.
- The harbor is home to the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory Lake Michigan Field Station, Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute, and the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center.
- Harbor of refuge
- Home to the U.S. Coast Guard Station Muskegon
- Ten private marinas on Muskegon Lake, with more than 1,000 boat slips
- The City of Muskegon maintains one public marina and five public launches including Hartshorn Marina with 143 major boat slips, 30 small slips, and 102 moorings.
- Muskegon State Park, Laketon Township, and the city of North Muskegon each maintain public boat launch facilities.
- Harbor is home to Fisherman’s Landing, an 18.6-acre sport-fishing and recreational bass tournament camping facility.
- Harbor is the home port to the Lake Express, a commercial terminal providing high speed cross lake ferry service to and from Milwaukee, WI.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, 2025, and 2026
Muskegon Harbor, MI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 Appropriation	FY26 Requirement	FY26 President’s Budget
Maintenance Dredging	0	0	1,550	1,550	2,005	2,005
Dredged Material Management Preliminary Plan	0	0	150	150	0	0
Section 111 Beach Nourishment Activities	0	0	200	0	200	200
Sediment Transport Evaluation	100	100	0	0	250	0
South Breakwater Repairs - Engineering and Design	800	0	1,775	0	1,825	0
North Revetment Repairs – E&D and Construction	0	0	2,500	2,500	0	0
Critical Structure Safety Maintenance	50	0	150	150	0	0
Navigation Structure Condition Assessment	0	0	10	10	10	10
Project Condition Surveys	0	0	0	0	250	0
Real Estate Management	12	12	12	12	12	12
TOTAL	962	112	6,347	4,372	4,552	2,277

Congressional Interests

- Representative Hillary Scholten D-MI-3
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Elissa Slotkin D-MI