



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®



## Ontonagon Harbor, MI

### Harbor Features

- Located about 140 miles east of Duluth, MN, on the south shore of Lake Superior, at the mouth of the Ontonagon River, MI
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 2 Mar 1867, 23 Jun 1874, 13 Jun 1902, 2 Mar 1907, 3 Mar 1909, 26 Aug 1937, Act of 1962
- Deep draft harbor
- Project depth is 23 feet in the entrance channel of Lake Superior, 22 feet in the inner harbor channel. A 30-foot-deep sedimentation basin, and 21-foot-deep western upstream portion of the project was authorized but not constructed.
- Over 4,800 feet of structures including piers and revetments
- About 4,000 feet of maintained channel
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Oldenburg Group, and Ontonagon County

### Project Requirements

- Approximately 40,000 cubic yards of material must be dredged annually.
- FY22 funds were used to conduct maintenance dredging in Summer 2022.
- Local interests have raised concerns that navigation structures are contributing to deteriorated wave conditions within the harbor and erosion adjacent to shoreline outside the harbor.
- Repairs to navigation structures is currently required.
- Critical breakwater safety maintenance will be conducted with FY22 funds.
- Funding for maintenance dredging was provided in FY23.



### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Failure to dredge will result in continued shoaling and reduced channel dimensions.
- Lack of maintenance dredging is inhibiting development of new commercial users of the harbor.
- Reduction in wave attenuation, leading to significant storm damages and erosion within the harbor to include public and private riverfront property
- Damages to local recreational infrastructure including public docks and boat landings
- Loss of small craft navigation
- Reduction in beach nourishment, leading to beach erosion and lake encroachment subjecting commercial and residential properties along the Lake Superior shoreline to additional property damages
- Decrease in local tourism
- Significant loss of jobs both locally and regionally in an already economically depressed area
- Loss of an important harbor of refuge
- Loss of small craft navigation

**Transportation Importance**

- Ontonagon is a critical harbor of refuge.
- State of Michigan chose Ontonagon for its inclusion in the small harbor program and has invested funds to study means of revitalizing the harbor
- Economic sustainability and development of tourism relies on the waterfront property within Ontonagon’s historic district

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

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY22 Requirement</b>	<b>FY22 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY23 Requirement</b>	<b>FY23 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY24 Requirement</b>	<b>FY24 President’s Budget</b>
Maintenance Dredging	1,100	1,100	1,282	1,282	1,040	0
Rubblemound Wave Attenuators Repair - Engineering and Design	900	0	900	0	900	0
Critical Structure Safety Maintenance	25	25	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Management	11	11	12	12	12	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>12</b>

**Congressional Interests**

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