



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, 30 feet in the sedimentation basin, and 21 feet at the western upstream portion of the channel
- 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 typically be dredged each year.
- Funding for dredging was received in the FY18 Work plan and dredging was completed in 2019. Approximately 142,000 cubic yards of material were removed. The material was used to nourish the shoreline eastward of the harbor's entrance. FY20 dredging will begin in summer 2021.
- 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.
- Critical breakwater safety maintenance is currently required.
- Repair to navigation structures is currently required.



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) 2020, 2021, and 2022
Ontonagon Harbor, MI - 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	1,100	1,100	0	0	1,100	1,100
Navigation Structure Repairs	0	0	0	0	1,200	0
Real Estate Management	0	0	11	11	11	11
Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance	0	0	25	0	25	25
TOTAL	1,100	1,100	36	11	2,336	1,136

Congressional Interests

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