



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Port Austin Harbor, MI

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Huron at the tip of the thumb of Michigan, about 80 miles northeast of Saginaw, MI
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Act of 2 Mar 1945
- Shallow draft recreational harbor
- Project depth for the entrance channel is 12 feet and the harbor basin is 10 feet deep.
- Federal channel does not go further inland than mouth of Bird Creek
- More than 2,300 feet of breakwaters
- Dredged material is placed in an upland placement site.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Michigan DNR Marina, 6 private marinas, village of Port Austin Marina, Port Austin Township Marina, Huron County Park & Beach, and various sport fishing interests

Project Requirements

- Requires infrequent maintenance dredging of approximately 15,000 cubic yards on a 10- to 15-year cycle. Dredging requirements vary relative to shoaling patterns, usage, placement site and environmental coordination efforts.
- The harbor was last dredged in 2010, when approximately 21,000 cubic yards of material were removed.
- Maintenance dredging is currently required.
- Repairs to the breakwater structures are required.
- Critical breakwater safety maintenance was completed in FY22.



Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Loss of jobs locally
- Loss of recreational and charter fishing in the area; harbor supports 12 charter fishing boats
- Federal breakwaters protect the Michigan DNR Marina, Huron County's Bird Creek Park, and a public beach.
- Potential safety issues for recreational boating community
- Loss of safe harbor during storm events
- Loss of recreational boating access to Lake Huron

Transportation Importance

- This project serves as an important harbor of refuge as well as charter fishing and recreational navigation interests.
- The local community has established a significant infrastructure around the harbor facilities that generates income from harbor users and visitors to the area.
- Supports 100 recreational boat slips (the State of Michigan installed new dock facilities in 2010)

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

Work Package	FY22 Requirement	FY22 Appropriation*	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 President’s Budget
Maintenance Dredging	1,120	0	1,120	0	1,120	0
Sediment Sampling, Analysis, and Environmental Coordination	0	0	0	0	250	0
Navigation Structure Repairs - Engineering and Design	610	0	610	0	760	0
Critical Structure Safety Maintenance	50	50*	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Management	6	0	9	9	7	0
TOTAL	1,786	50	1,739	9	2,137	0

**Funded with supplemental funds, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*

Congressional Interests

- Representative Lisa McClain R-MI-9
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI