



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## Portage Lake Harbor, MI

### Harbor Features

- Located on the east shore of Lake Michigan, 146 miles northeast of Chicago, IL and 40 miles north of Ludington, MI
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Act of 3 Mar 1879
- Deep draft harbor serving primarily recreational users
- Project depth is 18 feet, and currently maintained to 12 feet
- Over 2,000 feet of maintained federal channel, between Lake Michigan and Portage Lake
- More than 4,400 feet of maintained piers and revetments
- Dredged material is placed along the beach as beach nourishment.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, city (village) of Onekama, Michigan DNR, Michigan Boating Association, Portage Lake Harbor Commission, Three Harbor Marinas, and a variety of charter and sport fishing interests

### Project Requirements

- Approximately 22,000 cubic yards of material must be dredged on a 3- to 5-year cycle.
- The harbor was last dredged in 2018.
- Sediment sampling was completed using FY23 funds.
- Maintenance dredging will be completed with FY23 funds.
- North and south revetment repairs were completed in the spring of 2020.
- Critical structure safety maintenance is currently required.
- Funds are requested to conduct a condition assessment of the navigation structure.



### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Loss of jobs locally; the harbor supports approximately 200 jobs
- Loss of tourism, recreational and charter fishing in the area; the harbor supports 11 charter fishing boats and 4 commercial docking facilities
- Potential safety issues for recreational boating community if channel closes

### Transportation Importance

- This project serves as an important harbor of refuge and supports 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.
- The project supports approximately 250 recreational boat slips with more than 500 private onshore docks.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 2024, and 2025  
Portage Lake Harbor, MI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY23 Requirement</b>	<b>FY23 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY24 Requirement</b>	<b>FY24 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY25 Requirement</b>	<b>FY25 President’s Budget</b>
Maintenance Dredging	980	980	0	0	0	0
Sediment Sampling and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Critical Structure Safety Maintenance	50	0	50	0	50	0
Navigation Structure Condition Assessment	0	0	0	0	8	0
Real Estate Management	9	9	5	0	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>9</b>

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative John Moolenaar R-MI-2
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI