



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
- Recreational harbor
- 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 with funds from 2017 structure repair package.
- Local community completed dredging of the federal channel in 2013 with funding from State of Michigan.
- The state of Michigan provided USACE with \$800,000 of contributed funds in 2016 to complete design of the project and partial repairs to the navigation structures.
- A contract for the north and south revetment repair was awarded in fall 2017 and construction completed in the spring of 2020.
- Maintenance dredging is currently required.
- Critical breakwater safety maintenance is currently required.



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) 2020, 2021, and 2022
Portage Lake 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 900 | 0 |
| Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| Real Estate Management | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 955 | 0 |

Congressional Interests

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