



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Washington Island, WI

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Michigan approximately two miles northeast of the tip of the Door County Peninsula in Wisconsin.
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Act of 26 Aug 1937.
- Two shallow draft recreational harbors – Detroit Harbor and Jackson Harbor. Approximately 4,000 feet of federal channel combined.
- Authorized project depths are 14 feet and 12 feet for Detroit and Jackson Harbor, respectively.
- Major stakeholders: Washington Island Ferry Line, U.S. Coast Guard, and a variety of charter and sport fishing interests.

Project Requirements

- Requires infrequent channel maintenance.
- Current sediment backlog within the authorized federal channel for both harbors is 3K cubic yards.
- Loss of available depth within the center half-width of the channel ranges from 2- to 4-ft depth at Jackson Harbor. Channel depth extends to 3 ft below the presently authorized depth at Detroit Harbor.
- The two harbors' channels were last maintained by the federal government in 1939. The sediment removed was placed in open water.
- The Washington Island Ferry Line has periodically replaced its fleet with larger vessels to meet increasing commercial needs on the island. The largest ferries' drafts exceed 12 feet when loaded. This depth is unsafe during periods of low lake levels or during adverse weather conditions, compelling light loading and increasing operating expenses.



- The local community and the State of Wisconsin deepened the federal navigation channel at Detroit Harbor to a depth of 17 feet under a USACE permit. 135K cubic yards of sediment was removed during 2013-2014.
- Authorization limitations for Detroit Harbor constrain any federal maintenance actions to mitigate risks to ferry traffic. Any further channel excavation to address those issues must be performed by local interests.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Loss of recreational jobs and charter fishing in the area.
- Greater risk of grounding to sailboats seeking refuge within the port during hazardous lake or weather conditions.
- Loss of only commercial transportation option to the mainland.
- Loss of emergency and all essential services to the local community.

Transportation Importance

- Subsistence port – this harbor provides all essential services to the town. It is vital to emergency services and schools.
- This project serves charter fishing and recreational navigation interests.
- The local community has established significant infrastructure and businesses around the harbor and generates income from users and visitors.
- Harbor of refuge for recreational vessels.

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

Work Package	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 President’s Budget
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Congressional Interests

- Representative Mike Gallagher R-WI-8
- Senator Ron Johnson R-WI
- Senator Tammy Baldwin D-WI