



Waukegan Harbor, IL

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Michigan in the city of Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois.
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 1880, 1882, 1902, 1945, 1965, and 1970.
- Deep draft commercial harbor with a federal channel length of 1.35 miles.
- Authorized project depths are 25 feet in the Lake Michigan harbor approach and 23 feet in the channel.
- 6,133 linear feet of timber crib, steel sheet pile, or concrete caisson breakwater structures, plus 1,076 linear feet of steel pile revetments.
- 223K tons of cargo shipped/received in 2021.
- Dredged sand from the approach channel is typically placed in near-shore locations to the north or south. Outer harbor material is similarly suitable for near-shore in-water placement. Inner harbor material may require upland placement (determination pending).
- Interconnected with 4 commercial ports: ships to 2 ports, receives from 4 ports.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, National Gypsum, Lafarge Cement Terminal, and St. Mary's Cement Inc. Currently, only National Gypsum employs marine shipping.

Project Requirements

- The shoaling rate within the approach channel averages 59K cubic yards per year but varies with storms and lake levels.
- Current sediment backlog within the federal channel is 72K cubic yards.
- Loss of available depth within the center half-width of the channel is approximately 1 ft throughout the outer harbor but increases to 4 ft along the edges of the inner harbor channel.
- Channel maintenance was not performed in 2019, 2020, or 2022 after condition surveys



showed a shallow distribution of sediment within the approach channel and minimal loss of depth.

- The harbor approach was last dredged in 2021, removing 50K cubic yards of sand from the harbor approach and placing it in the near shore to the south.
- Channel maintenance to remove 50K cubic yards is planned for 2024.
- Sediment sampling and analysis for the Outer and Inner Harbors is also planned in FY24.
- The north and south piers are in good condition with multiple repair efforts completed within the past five years.
- The north breakwater shore arm connection and north pier (inner wall segment) was repaired in 2022.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Absent regular channel maintenance, National Gypsum would cease marine operations.
- If closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by over 588 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$263K due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$176K due to increased trucking related accidents.

- The harbor is a safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for barges and vessels traveling north from or south to the Port of Chicago.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$6.1M in business revenue, 28 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$1.9M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the harbor support \$21.9M in business revenue, 132 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$6.6M in labor income.

Transportation Importance

- Commodities are gypsum rock (95%) and bulk material for aggregate (sand, gravel, limestone).

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

Work Package	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 President’s Budget
Real Estate Management	15	15	17	12	16	16
Maintenance Dredging Approach Channel – Primary Work Package	0	0	1,470	1,470	0	0
Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance	0	0	25	0	0	0
TOTAL	15	15	1,512	1,482	16	16

Congressional Interests

- Representative Brad Schneider D-IL-10
- Senator Richard Durbin D-IL
- Senator Tammy Duckworth D-IL