



Michigan City Harbor, IN

Project Features

- The harbor is located in Michigan City, Indiana in LaPorte County, Indiana.
- Authorization: Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1836, 1870, 1899, 1905, 1927 and 1935. Section 107 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960. Section 123 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1970, Water Resources Development Act 1986 and 1996.
- Maintained navigation channel depths are 14 ft. in the harbor entrance, 12 ft. in the outer harbor, 10 ft. in Turning Basin No. 1, 10 ft in Trail Creek from Turning Basin No. 1 to Turning Basin No. 2 and 6 ft in Trail Creek from Turning Basin No. 2 to E. Street.
- Harbor structures consist of 2,304 linear feet of timber crib breakwaters, a West Pier 835 ft long and an East Pier 2,276 ft long.
- The Federal navigation channel within the harbor and Trail Creek is 2 miles long.

Project Needs

- A Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) is needed to investigate future sediment disposal options of the contaminated sediments of Turning Basin No. 1 and Trail Creek.
- The harbor entrance (clean sand) was last dredged in July 2006 to 14 feet, and periodic dredging of the harbor entrance is needed every 2-3 years. Trail Creek dredging is needed approximately every 6-8 years and it was last dredged in July 2002 with disposal in a landfill that was permanently closing.
- The detached timber crib concrete capped breakwater is the harbor's primary shield for mariners entering the harbor. Its condition is poor and has a high probability of concrete cap collapsing resulting from deteriorating timbers that have been exposed to the air during the recent prolonged low Lake Michigan levels. A 40 feet section of concrete cap was dislodged in 1998.



- A Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) will be most likely needed for future disposal of the contaminated sediments in the channels. The previous Michigan City Harbor CDF was capped after it was filled to capacity in 1979.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The harbor is a critical to the vitality of Michigan City; however, the Port of Michigan City no longer has significant amounts of commercial tonnage.

Homeland Security Importance

- The U.S. Coast Guard maintains law enforcement and search & rescue vessels within the port. The Coast Guard needs access to and from the port to conduct its Homeland Security missions on Lake Michigan.
- The harbor is the safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for recreational boats because its detached breakwater provides protection for vessels entering the harbor. There are transient berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, electricity, sewage pump-out and launching.
- The harbor generates millions annually in direct revenue related to recreational boating.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, 2009 and 2010
Michigan City Harbor, IN - Project Needs and President's Budget**

Work Package	FY08 Need	FY08 Allocation	FY09 Need	FY09 President's Budget	FY10 Need	FY10 Budget*
Project Condition Survey	15	15	20	0	24	
Maintenance Dredging of Harbor Entrance – Primary work package	-	657	-	-	450	
Dredged Material Management Plan	300	263	-	-	-	
Maintenance Dredging of Trail Creek (Turning basin No. 2 to E Street) – Backlog work package	-	-	1,145	0	-	
Structural Repairs - Detached Breakwater (performed by Gov't. Floating Plant)	-	-	-	-	720	
TOTALS	315	935	1,165	0	1,194	

*FY10 President's Budget will be available in February 2009.

Congressional Interests

- Representative Joe Donnelly, D-IN-2
- Senator Evan Bayh, D-IN
- Senator Richard G. Lugar, R-IN