



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Detroit District

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES Knife River, Minnesota



**Harbor Location:** Knife River Harbor is located on the north shore of Lake Superior at the mouth of the Knife River, about 18 miles northeast of Duluth, MN.

**Authority:** River & Harbor Act of 7 Mar 1974.

**Project Description:** Knife River Harbor was originally authorized as a shallow draft recreational harbor. The project consisted of one, 215 foot long rubble mound breakwater with a 30 foot timber crib on the end.

**Traffic:** No commerce reported

**Transportation Importance:** This project serves as a harbor of refuge and supports charter fishing and recreational navigation interests.

### **Congressional Interest:**

- Representative Rick Nolan D-MN-8
- Senator Al Franken D-MN
- Senator Amy Klobuchar D-MN

**Current Condition Assessment:** **C**



**Date of Site Visit:** 27 October 2010

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from the south-southeast direction. Waves overtopping the breakwater could roll into the harbor and have an immediate impact on the MNDNR Marina and the structures associated with the marina operations. The wave activity associated with the overtopping could cause dangerous currents for boat launching at the MNDNR site as well as damage vessels moored at the marina. Presently, the marina is sufficiently protected, but could be exposed to greater wave heights under the right conditions. In both cases, an increased wave climate would result in damage to docked vessels and the docks themselves. In the event the structures are damaged and/or destroyed during a storm event, only the Knife River Marina and its support buildings would be impacted.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. Knife River Marina:** The facility was developed in the early 1970's. It was initially operated as a private marina under Lake County ownership. In 2001, the MNDNR acquired the property to assure public access to the Lake and continue as a link in the North Shore harbor system. This 100 slip, full-service marina is operated by a concessionaire. Amenities include: a double boat ramp, 2-fuel docks, paved parking, restrooms, pump-out, transient slips and winter storage.

**Potential Impact Area:** The following graphic displays property parcels that could be impacted within various zones defined by different setbacks from the shoreline behind existing Federal coastal structures. Values are based on real property tax assessments from these parcels, and don't reflect any detailed coastal zone damage assessments. Figures simply reflect property values at various setbacks.

