



Learn the Facts First

Project Highlights

We are in the early stages of a 3-year study to assess the potential to improve navigation and safety by expanding Homer's Harbor.

- We are committed to coordinating robust opportunities for the public to engage and provide input during the study.
 - We want your input to help advance the study in a way that best serves the entire Homer community.
 - Visit www.homerharborexansion.com to sign up for email communications, leave comments, and learn about the project.
- The study is being conducted in partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a key driver in the study.

- NEPA requires that planning for projects like the Homer Harbor Expansion Study consider the potential impacts to the social and natural environments.
- An environmental review will be a primary component of the study.
 - The review will result in pursuit of either an environmental assessment (EA) or an [environmental impact statement \(EIS\)](#).
- If an EIS is identified as being necessary, it must be completed before any construction could begin on an expanded harbor.
 - You can learn more about NEPA and the environmental process by typing "a citizen's guide to NEPA" in your favorite search engine.

This is our community, and the City of Homer (City) shares the community's strong commitment to protecting the environment and preserving the area's natural beauty.

- With a commitment to preserving the beauty of Kachemak Bay and fostering a sustainable environment for future generations, we can work together to assess the opportunity to right-size and modernize our harbor while minimizing environmental impacts.
- We need to plan today for Homer's future.
- We are all vested in allowing Homer to remain a thriving, economically viable, and eco-conscious community.

The Homer Port and Harbor, built in 1964, cannot meet current moorage needs.

- Vessel slips are too few and too small for the current fleet.
- The number of vessels with lengths exceeding the largest stall size has doubled.
- Large vessels are currently rafted, sometimes three-abreast, because of space limitations.
- It's good to use the current facilities to the fullest extent; however, the cost of overcrowding is accelerated depreciation of the harbor's float systems, vessel damages, delays, and safety concerns because of navigational hazards in the harbor's narrowed travel lanes.



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The key goals of the study are to relieve existing transportation congestion and improve safety and efficiency within the harbor.

- There are no plans to substantially change the current usage of the Homer Port and Harbor.
 - Key users of the harbor are:
 - Barges and cargo transport vessels currently supplying 47 small communities, Native villages, and remote work areas (including the Bristol Bay salmon fishery)
 - The commercial fishing fleet
 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and other coastal marine research vessels
 - U.S. Coast Guard assets that currently must moor outside the protected harbor because of draft limitations
 - Pilot and tug vessels that escort larger vessels in Nikiski and the Port of Alaska that also must moor outside the protected harbor
 - The City has adopted a [Charter](#) that defines a shared vision, goals, objectives, and success factors for the City's involvement in the Homer Harbor Expansion Study.
 - Working collaboratively with the Homer community is a key tenet of the Charter.
 - Attracting the cruise industry is not a goal of the study.

The study is just beginning; it's too soon to speculate on USACE's recommendations.

- Project scoping and alternatives design will take about 12 months; the full study is expected to take 3 years.
- The City is committed to providing robust community engagement and ensuring that public feedback is a key consideration throughout the design process.
- We are many years away from any construction that may or may not be recommended as a result of the Homer Harbor Expansion Study.

Simultaneously with the USACE study, the City will be working to identify and evaluate infrastructure and services needs and opportunities that would likely arise if the harbor was expanded.

- The City worked hard to secure the funding for the \$3 million study in a way that would minimize impacts to the City budget and our residents.
 - The federal government is paying for half of the study, the State of Alaska is paying for one quarter, and the City is paying for the final quarter (\$750,000).
- If a harbor expansion project is recommended and the City decides to pursue the project, funding will come from a variety of sources with the intention to minimize impacts to the City budget and the residents of Homer.