# Homer Harbor Expansion Public Meeting

Saturday, March 15, 2025

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Why & Where
3. USACE Process
4. Progress Update
5. Alternatives Update
6. What's Next
7. Closing

# Introductions

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# Meet the Team

## City of Homer

- **Bryan Hawkins**
  Port Director**
- **Matt Clarke**
  Harbormaster
- **Amy Woodruff**
  Administrative Supervisor**
- **Melissa Jacobsen**
  City Manager
- **Jennifer Carroll**
  Special Projects & Communications Coordinator**

## USACE*

- **Curtis Lee**
  Study Project Manager*
- **Megan Green**
  Economist*
- **Tyler Teese**
  Archaeologist*
- **Lauren Oliver**
  Technical Lead*
- **Kayla Campbell**
  Environmental Resources Lead*

## HDR

- **Ronald McPherson**
  Project Manager/Lead Engineer**
- **KC Kent**
  Coastal **
- **Amy Burnett**
  Strategic Communications Lead**
- **Pearl-Grace Pantaleone**
  Strategic Communications Support**

*US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Virtually
**Project development team member, In-Person

# Why & Where

- Introductions
- **Why & Where**
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# Why It's Important

- Adequate harbor space
- Planning for Homer's future, for a strong, diverse economy
- Support safety and efficiency for key users:
  - Barges and cargo transport vessels
  - Commercial fishing fleet
  - Coastal marine research vessels
  - U.S. Coast Guard vessels
  - Pilot and tug boats
  - Recreational boats
  - Commercial sport fishing vessels
  - Ecotourism vessels
  - Water taxis

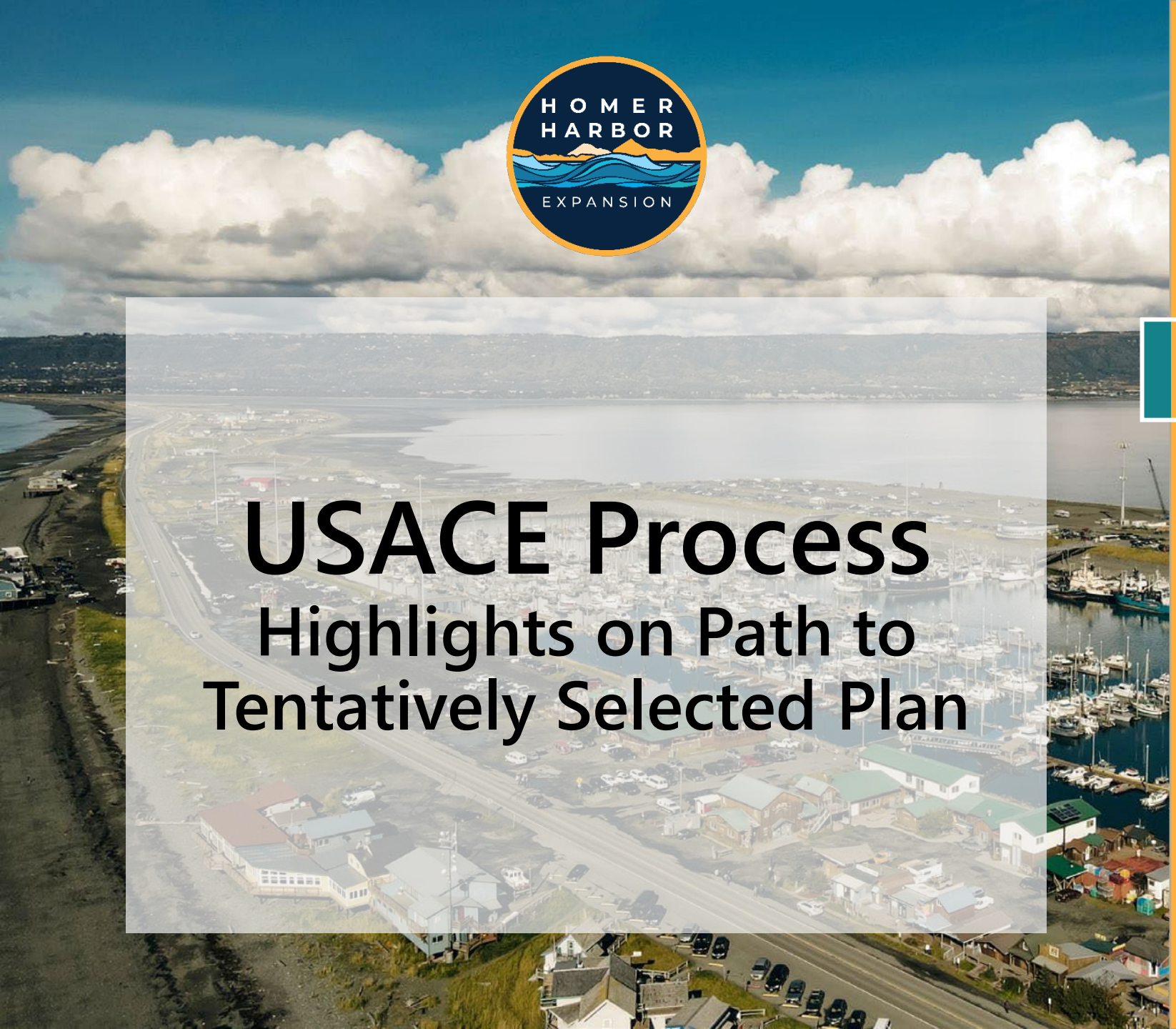

# We Are Here

## Alternative Evaluation & Analysis

- Refined Alternatives in Review NOW
  - Right-sized solution
  - The City welcomes your feedback on the designs
- Committed to the Environment
  - Protecting the environment and preserving the natural beauty
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a key driver in the study
- Collecting input on the design ideas at:

info@homerharborexpansion.com

homerharborexpansion.com



# USACE Process

## Highlights on Path to Tentatively Selected Plan

- introductions
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# USACE Phases

Decision Milestone

Product Milestone

We are here
Public Meeting
March 15, 2025


Alternatives Milestone

Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
June 2025

Draft Report Released for Concurrent Review
30-Day Public Comment Period
Sept. 1, 2025

Agency Decision Milestone

District Final Report Transmittal to the Division

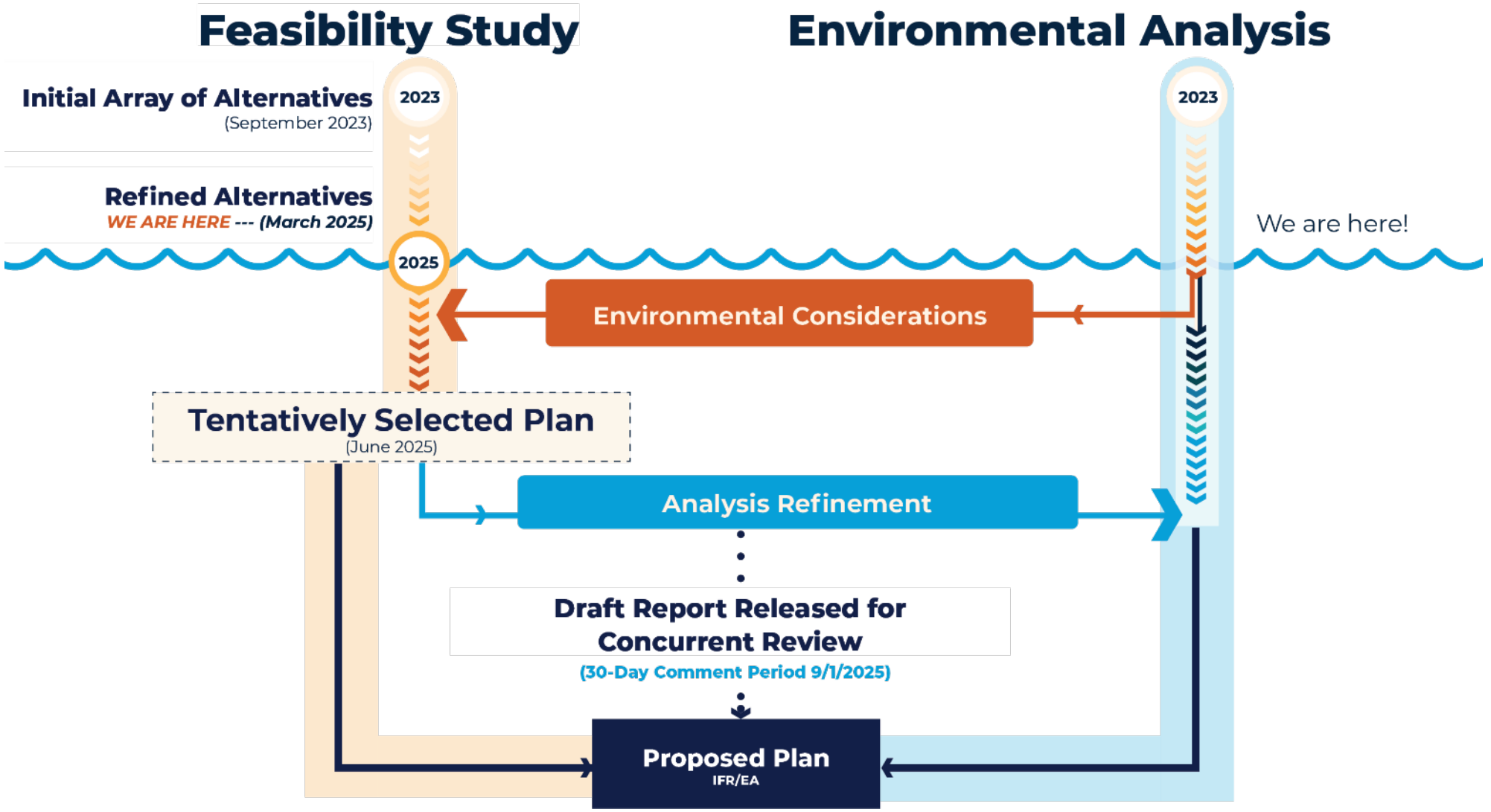
Division Final Report Transmittal to Headquarters

Chief's Report Signed

Focus on alternatives identification and evaluation to identify a recommended plan for more detailed design

Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan

# Getting to a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)



# HHE Path to TSP

## Economics

- National Economic Development (NED) Analysis
- Regional Economic Development (RED)
- Environmental Quality (EQ)
- Other Social Effects (OSE)

## Engineering

- Data gathering/ analysis/ documentation

## Environmental Resources

- Environmental Activities Pre-AMM
- Environmental Activities Post-AMM to TSP

## Cultural Resources

- Consultation with SHPO and other stakeholders

# Progress Update

## Supporting Refined Alternatives Development

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# Connection with the Community

Since May 2023, the Study Team has worked with the public in innovative ways to both inform and learn from the community. Here are a few ways we have been working with Harbor stakeholders and the public (as of January 2025):


**3,000**
**Postcards to the Homer Area Residents**

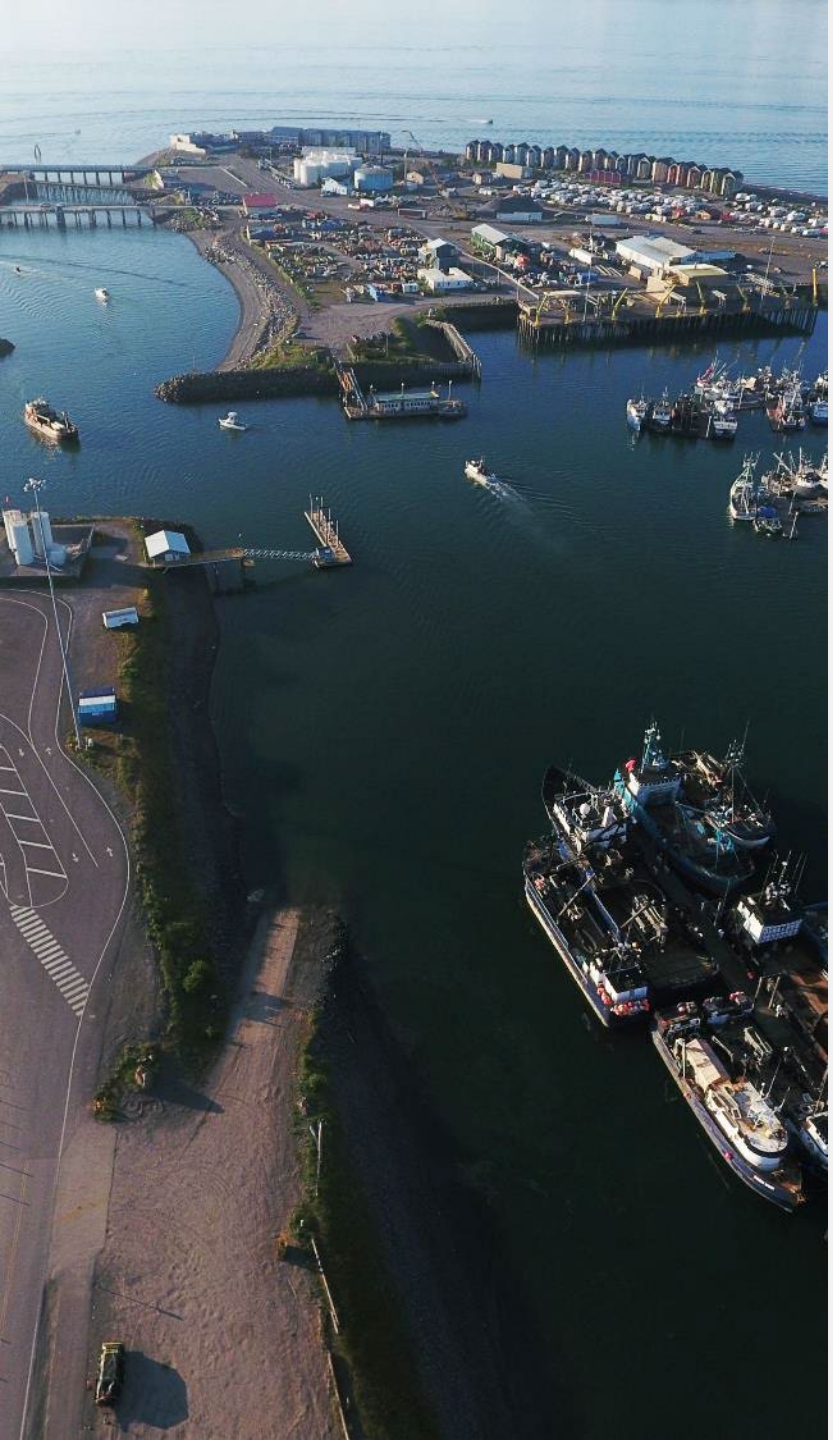
**50 Flyers**
**Posted in the Kenai Peninsula**

**90+ Social Media Posts**
**Facebook & Instagram**

**7,300+ Engagement Metrics**
**on boosted Facebook Posts**

**10+Email**
**Updates sent to subscribers**

**30 Comments**
**Received**



# Geophysical Data

## What Was Done

- Sub-bottom profiling, hydrographic survey, and topographic surveys of potential expansion footprint.

## Key Findings

- Homer Harbor seabed is made up of primarily gravels, pebbles, and rock.
- Geophysical results informed quantity of geotechnical core sampling (to be performed)

## What's Next

- Additional core sampling to categorize sediment sub-sea floor layers.
- Geotechnical analysis to inform potential breakwater settlement.

## Why It Matters

- Helps determine the potential location, depth, and boundaries of an expansion.
- More data allows for realistic designs and construction estimates.

# Vessel Simulation

## What Was Done

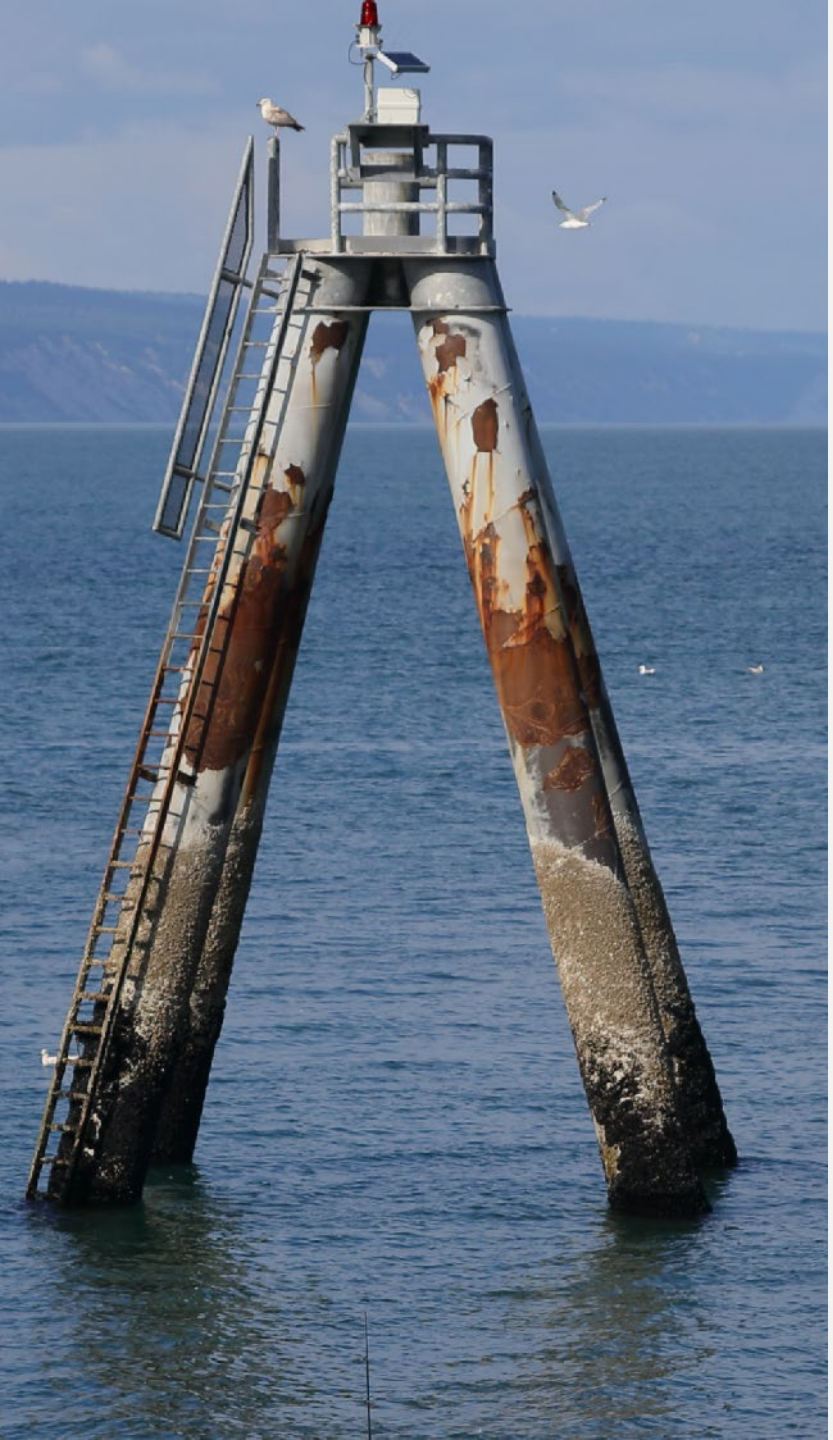
- USACE staff took photographs of the Homer area from sea and land to support building a simulation of the selected harbor expansion design.

## What's Next

- After the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) milestone, a simulation of the preferred design will be built at the USACE Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC).
- Vessel pilots will use virtual reality to navigate the simulation and provide feedback.
- Design changes may be conducted to address concerns raised during simulation.

## Why It Matters

- Vessel simulation is a powerful tool for identifying and resolving challenges before project engineering and construction
- Has potential to help right size the design to reduce costs.



# Wave Modeling

## What Was Done

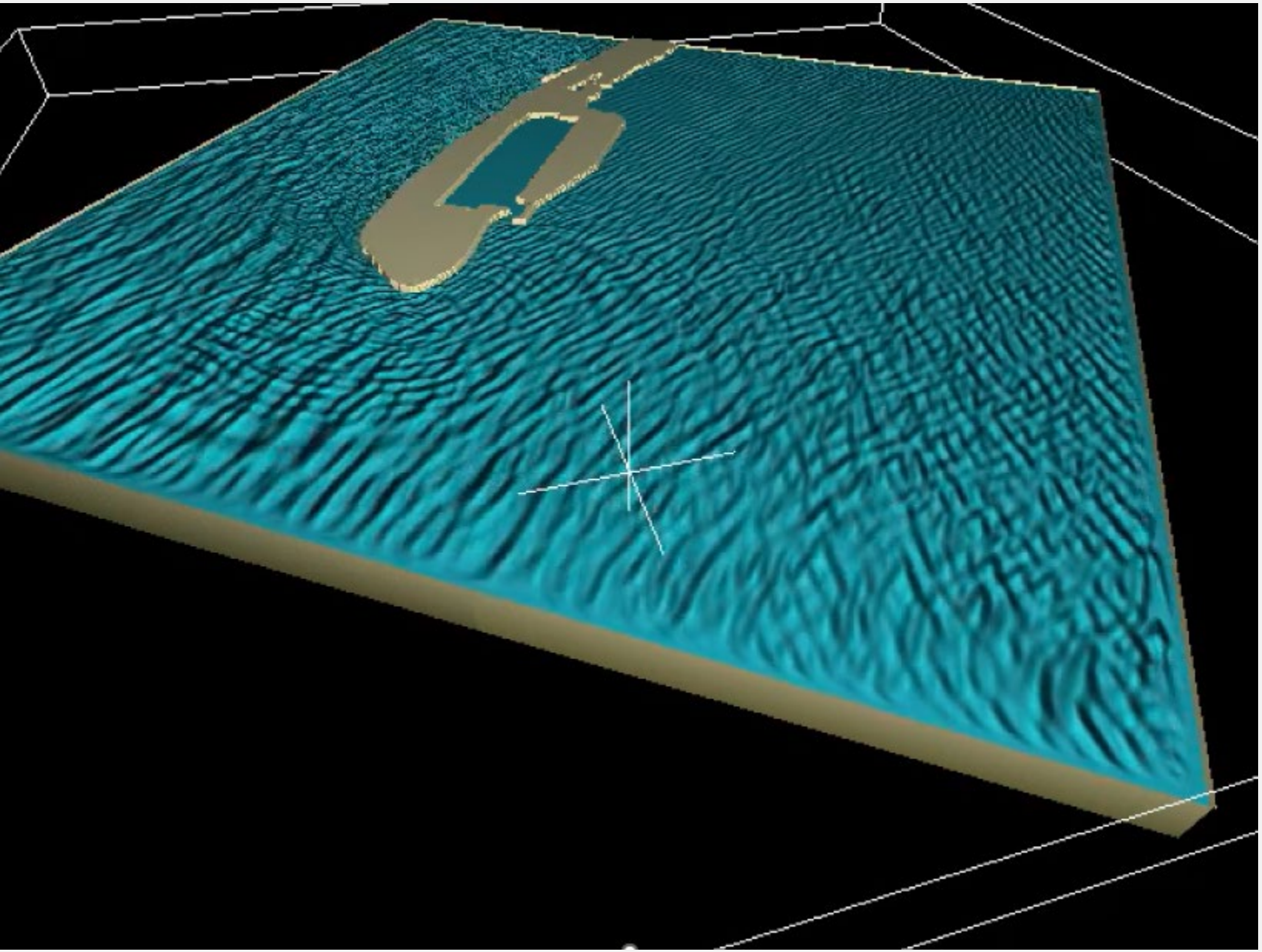
- The Study team created a wave model from historic wave data to predict likely wave conditions under a wide range of scenarios.
- Wind, waves, water levels, topography, and bathymetry data were all combined to create a baseline or “current conditions” scenario.

## What’s Next

- As alternatives are advanced, preliminary harbor designs will be modeled.
- Modeling compares baseline conditions against conditions created by the design.

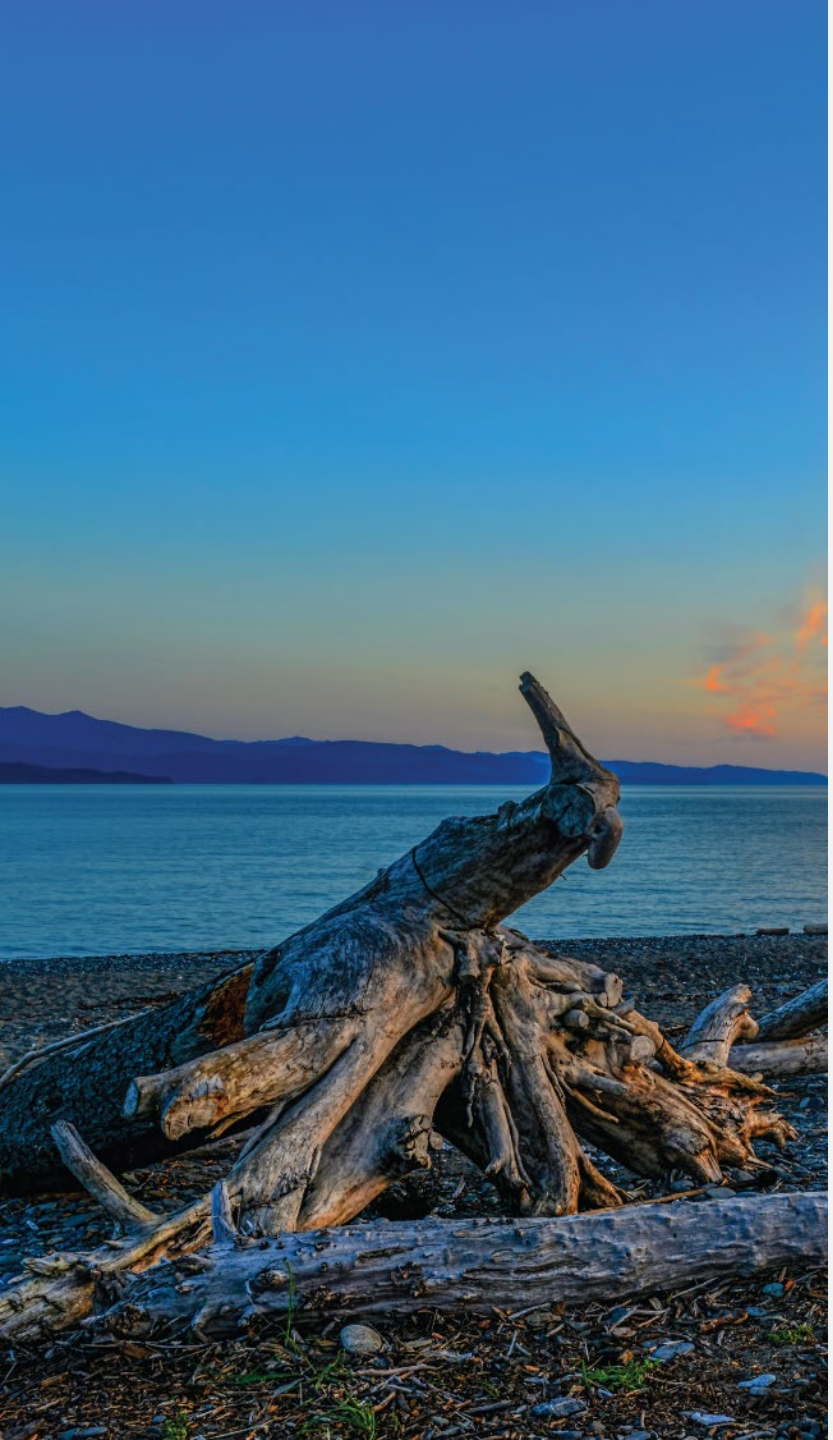
## Why It Matters

- Wave modeling helps evaluate the environmental impacts of an expansion on the surrounding areas.



# Baseline Conditions Completed

- Metocean Conditions
  - Tides
  - Waves
  - Currents
  - Wind
- Coastal Modeling
  - MIKE21 HD FM (Circulation/Tides)
  - MIKE21 HD SW (Regional Wave)
  - MIKE21 BW (Local/Harbor Wave)
- USACE Reviewed



# Environmental Review

## What Was Done

- Environmental Working Group including 30+ local, state, and federal stakeholders.
- Two-day environmental workshop to initiate development of an ecological model.
- Near-shore beach seining, environmental DNA sample collection, bottom trawl surveys, and other fieldwork to develop existing conditions based on recent, site-specific data.

## What's Next

- Additional data collection.
- Ecological model is in refinement with the support from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists, who are completing a kelp study for incorporation.

## Why It Matters

- Environmental laws and regulations (e.g., the National Environmental Policy Act) are a key driver in environmental analysis for the Study.
- The Study team is committed to protecting the environment and preserving Homer's natural beauty.

Contact: Kayla.n.campbell@usace.army.mil

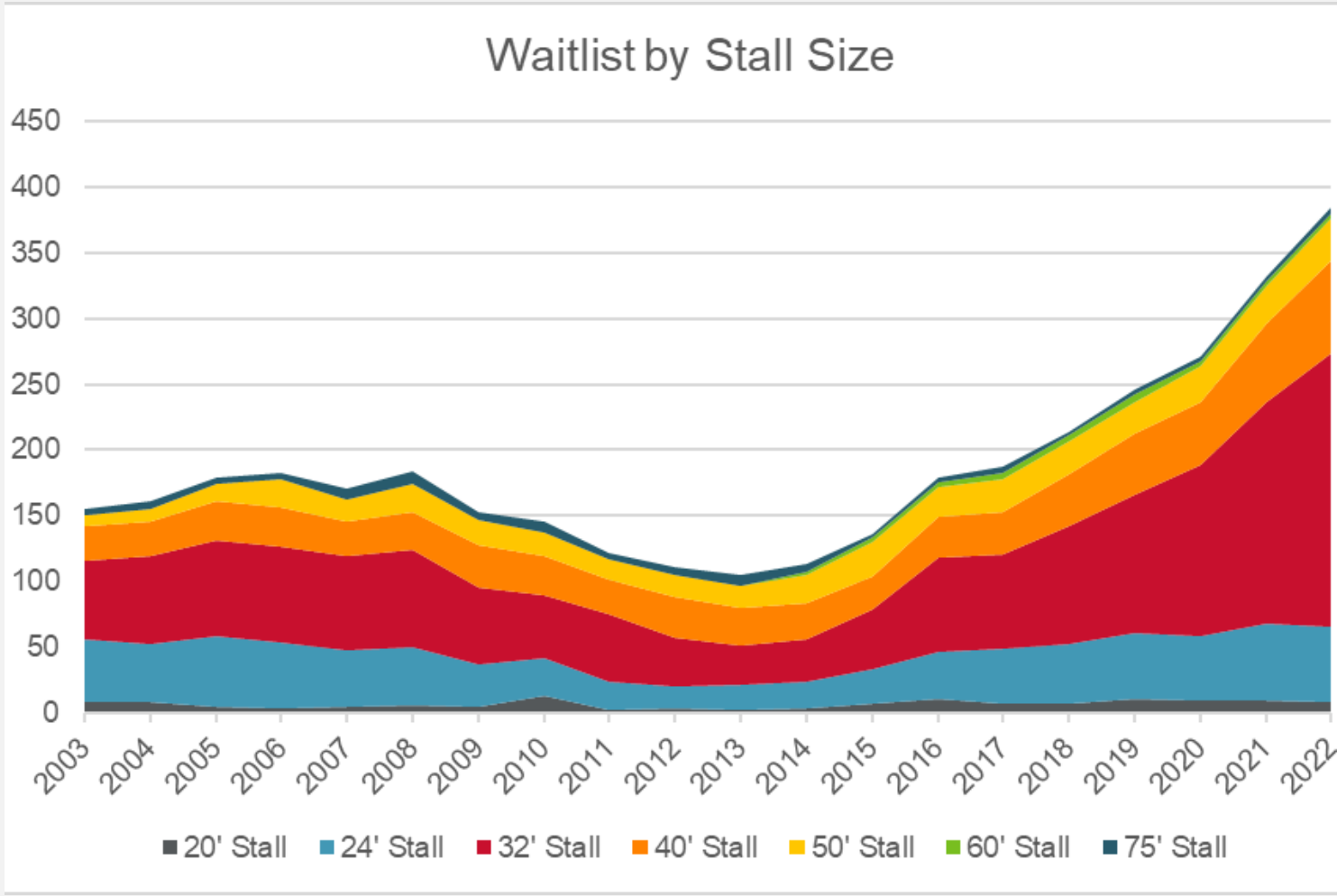
# Fleet Analysis – Key Basis for Design

## What Was Done

- Analyzed historical port and harbor moorage
- Assessed potential future growth based on waitlist demand trends, vessels turned away for lack of moorage, and regional/state economics
- Hosted USACE-led focus groups targeting specific harbor user types to improve and confirm economic assumptions.

## Why It Matters

- Provided the foundation for the study team to right-size the harbor design ideas
- Developed 3 design fleets that were used to create Alternatives 1A/1B, 2, and 3



# Alternatives Update

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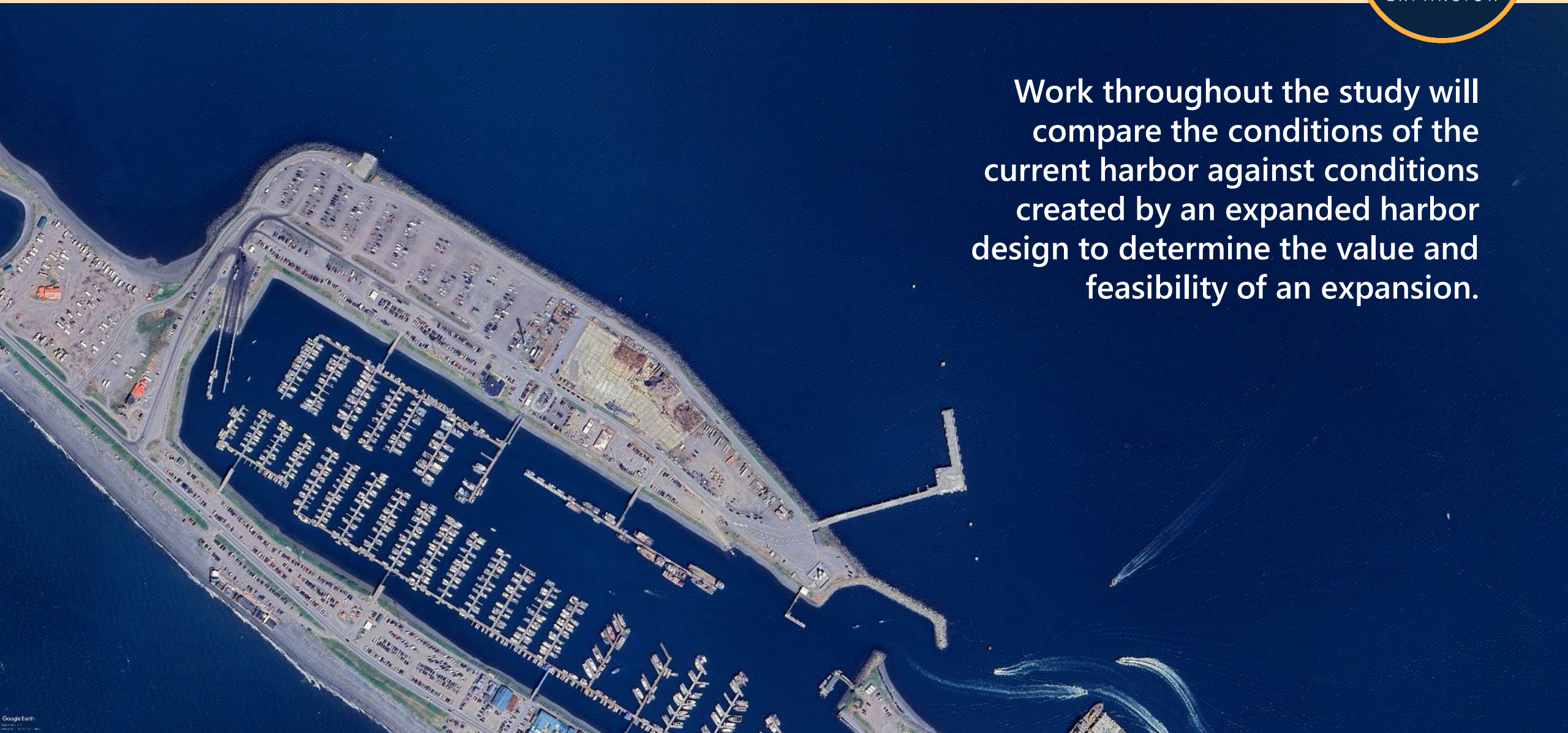
# Alternative 0 – No Action



Work throughout the study will compare the conditions of the current harbor against conditions created by an expanded harbor design to determine the value and feasibility of an expansion.

# Alternative 1A

## Immediate Needs

- Includes a new exterior harbor
- Relocates vessels from Transient Float System 5 from the small boat harbor to the new exterior harbor
- Accommodates vessels that use the deep-water dock
- Provides additional small craft moorage in existing harbor

*Reduces rafting for large vessels within the new harbor basin.*

*A waitlist remains for the harbor.*

# Alternative 1A – Idea 1

**NOTE: These are refined drafts of potential harbor expansion design and are not final.**

# Alternative 1A - Idea 2

**NOTE: These are refined drafts of potential harbor expansion design and are not final.**

# Alternative 1B

## Immediate Needs+

Alternative 1B contains all Alternative 1A features plus:

- Provides large vessels with dedicated stalls in new harbor basin
- Eliminates rafting
- Provides opportunity for additional uplands for local services facilities such as a fuel dock or barge ramp

*A waitlist remains for the harbor.*

# Alternative 1B - Idea 1

**NOTE: These are refined drafts of potential harbor expansion design and are not final.**

# Alternative 1B - Idea 2

**NOTE: These are refined drafts of potential harbor expansion design and are not final.**

# Alternative 2

## Current Needs

Alternative 2 contains all Alternative 1B features plus:

- Additional floats to accommodate current waitlist for moorage in the harbor
- Additional uplands for local services facilities.

*Meets the existing harbor needs and demand.*

# Alternative 2 - Idea 1

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# Alternative 2 - Idea 2

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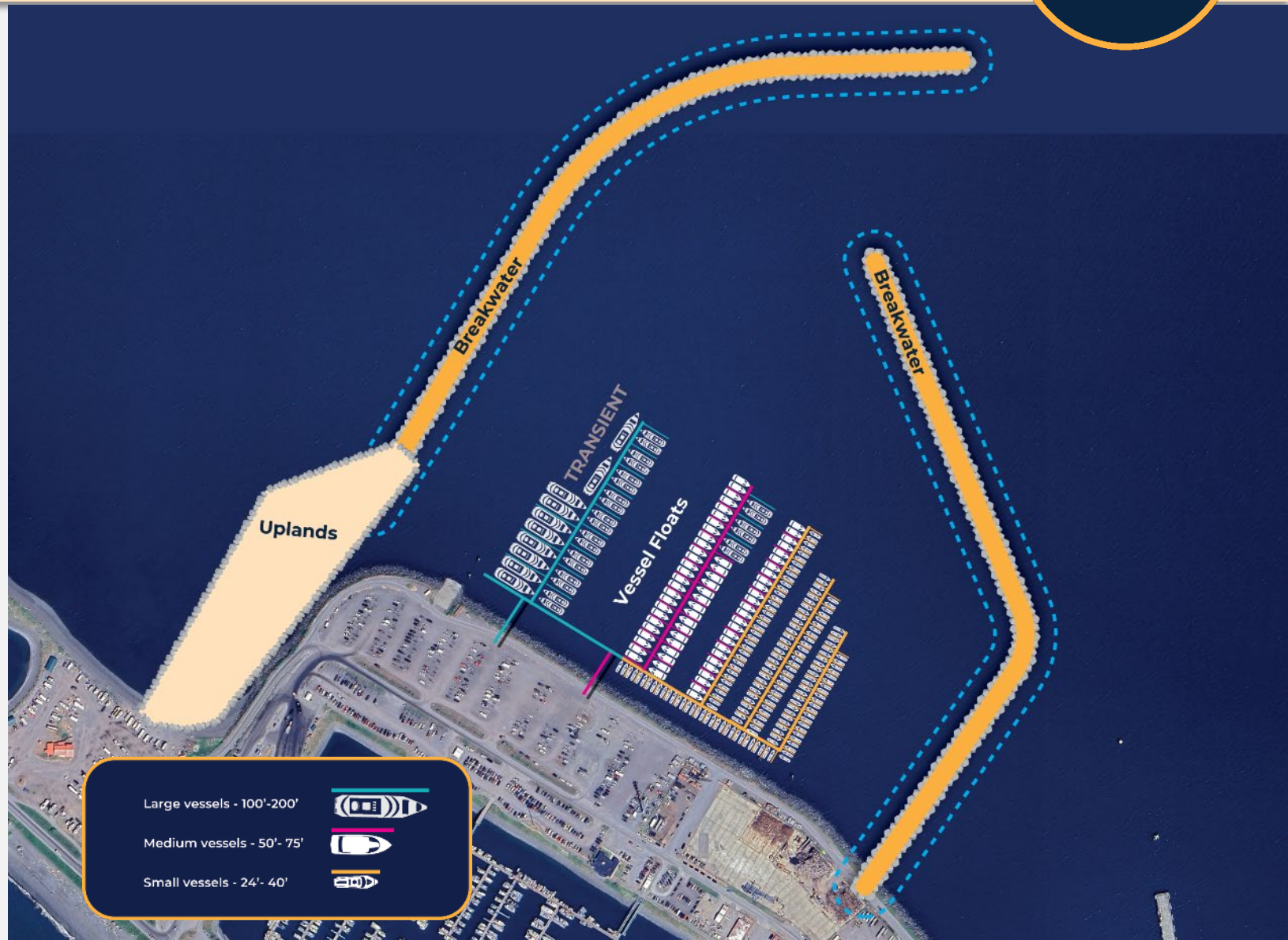

# Alternative 3

## Modeled Growth

Alternative 3 features the largest footprint to meet current and likely future projected needs by:

- Containing all features from Alternative 2
- Adding extended uplands and floats

*Accommodates modeled "likely" growth over the next 50 years.*

# Alternative 3 - Idea 1

**NOTE: These are refined drafts of potential harbor expansion design and are not final.**

# Alternative 3 - Idea 2

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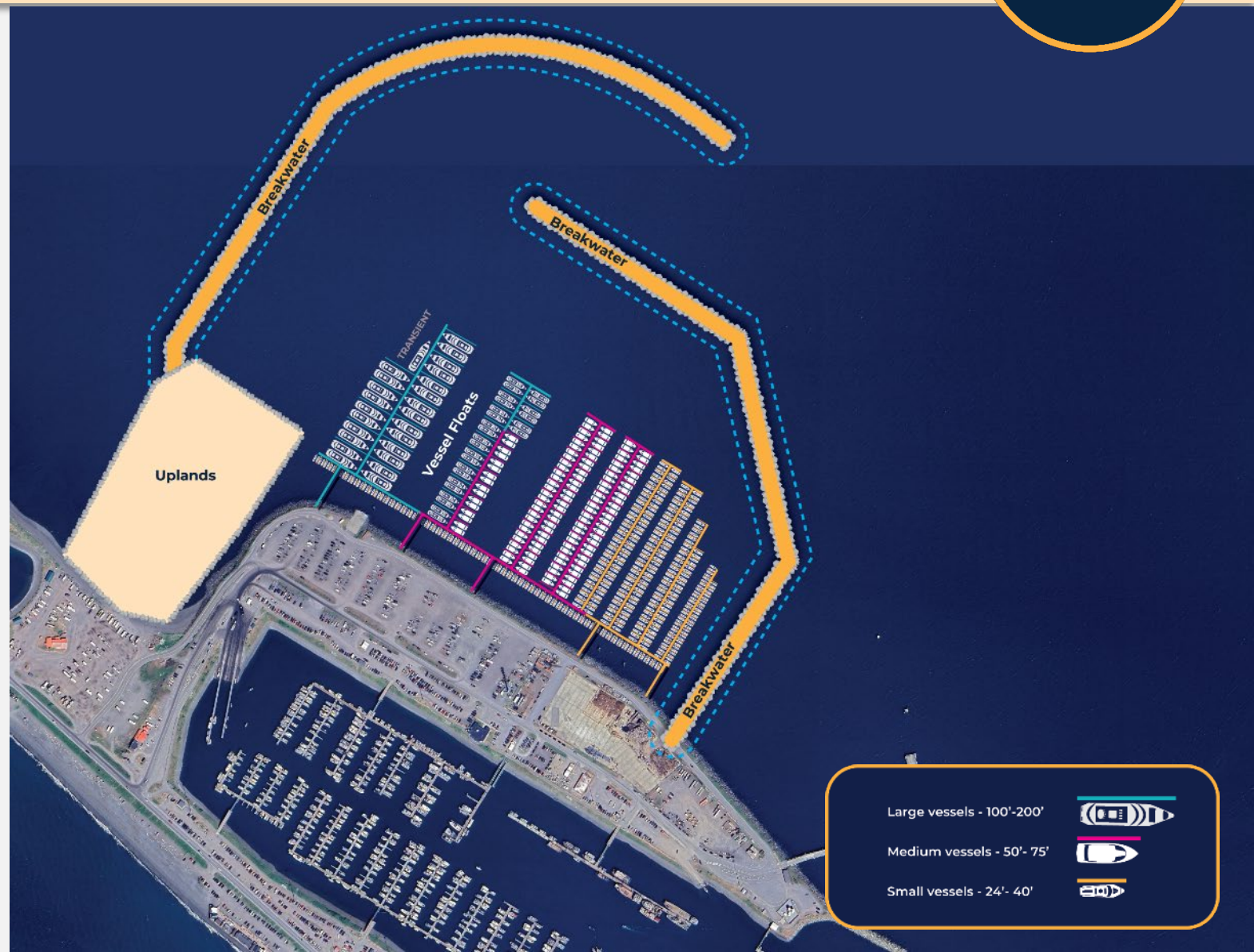

# What's Next

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# Road to Tentative Plan/Draft Report

## Integrated Feasibility Study and environmental analysis are advanced, as follows:

- WE ARE HERE! Alternatives are advanced to conceptual-design level based on functionality and other influences (e.g., reducing environmental and cultural impact).
  - Still in design and refinement
  - Your feedback matters!

- WHAT'S NEXT! Study team updates designs, then reviews alternatives. Team compares alternatives to the "without project" condition to determine the most advantageous alternative (including no action) that provides the most local, regional, and national benefits. Tentatively selected plan and draft report delivered for USACE review then public comment.
  - 30-day public comment period scheduled for September 1, 2025
  - More feedback matters!

- The Environmental Analysis runs parallel to the study and is integrated within the draft feasibility report. This effort coordinates the Tentatively Selected Plan with all the regulatory agencies to determine viability of the concept and any measures that need to take place.
  - Work done by the USACE environmental working group, comprised of individuals representing themselves or local, State, and Federal agencies, to inform this process.

# Milestone Dates

| Task | Scheduled date | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Tentatively Selected Plan | 6/24/2025 | Internal USACE Milestone |
| **Release Draft Report** | **9/01/2025 - 9/30/2025** | **30-Day Public Comment Period** |
| Agency Decision Milestone | March 2026 | Internal USACE Milestone |
| District Final Report Submittal | September 2026 | Internal USACE Milestone |
| Signed Chief's Report | January 2027 | Study Complete |

# Closing

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# We Want to Hear from You!

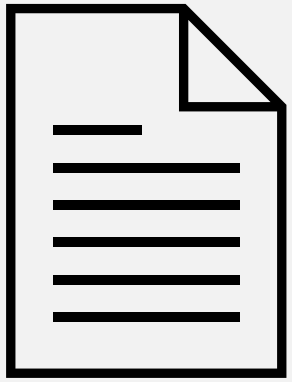
- Third Public Meeting
  - March 15, 2025 (today!)
  - Share your input on the design ideas
- USACE Public Comment Period
  - Coming soon!
    (Scheduled September 1, 2025)
  - 30 days - at delivery of draft report
  - City of Homer will publicize
- Public Engagement
  - Ongoing – stay tuned
- Input Encouraged
  - Throughout!

# Poster Session/Q&A

- Project staff stationed at posters around the room
- Revisit presentation information
- Ask questions and learn more from the project team
- Fill out a comment form

# THANK YOU & Please Stay Involved

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone.



**Fill out a comment form here, today**

**Comment and subscribe to the email list electronically**
*(on our website)*

**Read the FAQs**
*(on our website)*

**Visit the website**

www.homerharborexpansion.com

# Data Collection

- Data from the Port
  - User lists
  - Vessel Inventories
  - Moorage Sales
  - Waitlist
  - Boat Launch Pass sales
  - Vessels Turned Away
- Reports/Surveys
  - HDR's Homer Fleet Demand Analysis
  - Homer Port User Survey
- Focus Groups
  - Conducted in October 2024
  - Commercial, Recreational, Charter Fishing, Water Taxi, and System 5 vessels
- Other
  - Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission data

# Model Development and NED Benefits Categories

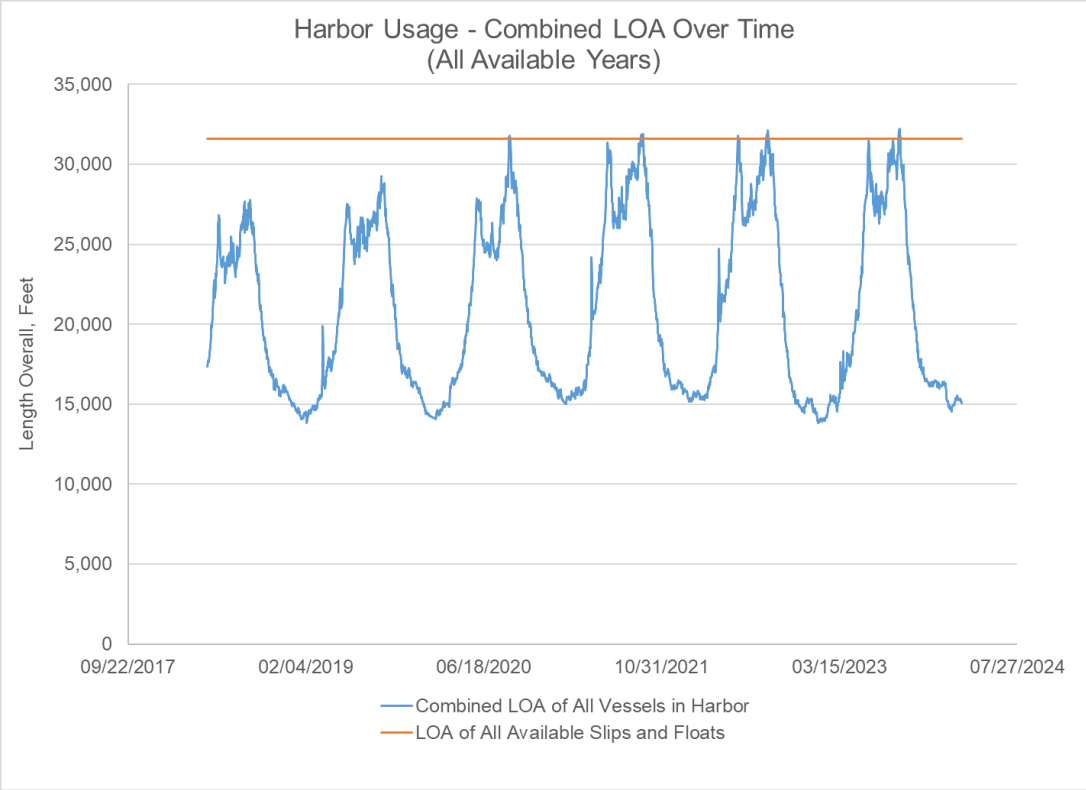
- Model Development:
  - December 2024 through March 2025
  - Model DQC –begins March 10th
  - Model technical review—begins March 24th

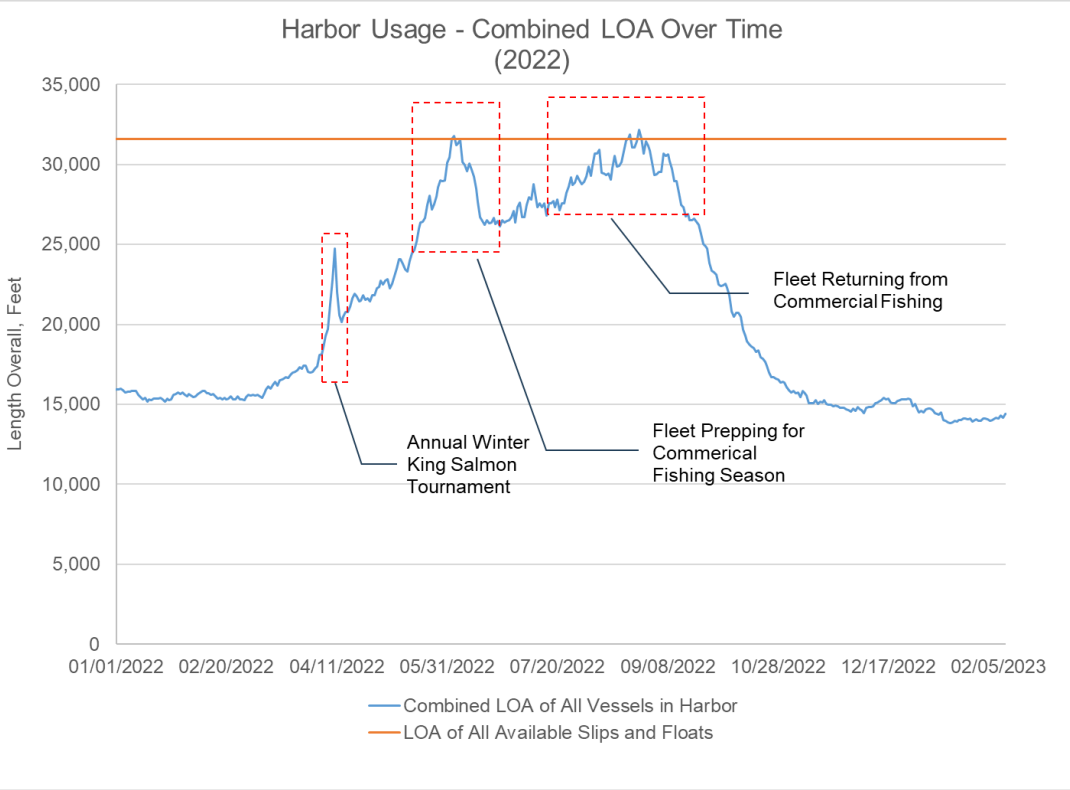
- Primary NED Benefits Categories Considered:
  - Delay times to different user groups
  - Vessel Damages due to over crowding
  - Fuel Costs associated with Rafting
  - Wear and tear on harbor infrastructure due to overcrowding

# Other Benefits Considered

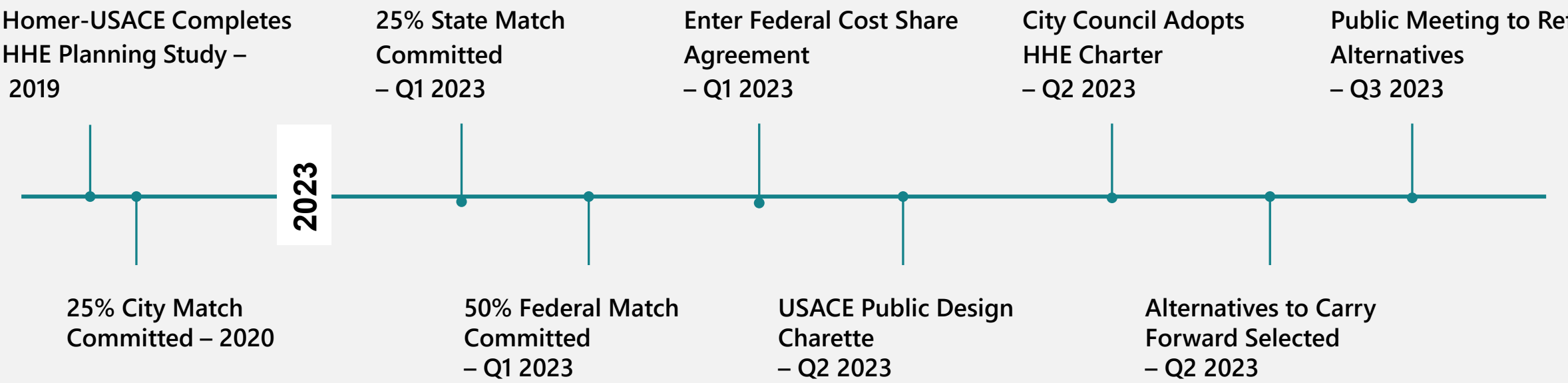
- RED Benefits
  - Impacts to local economy from construction of a  project
- Environmental Benefits
  - Reduction of fuel use / pollutants due to rafting
- OSE Benefits
  - Regional connectivity and importance of Homer as a transportation hub for communities off the road system
  - Increased safety as rafting is reduced

# Fleet Study - Harbor Usage
## (Sample Results)



# Project Timeline



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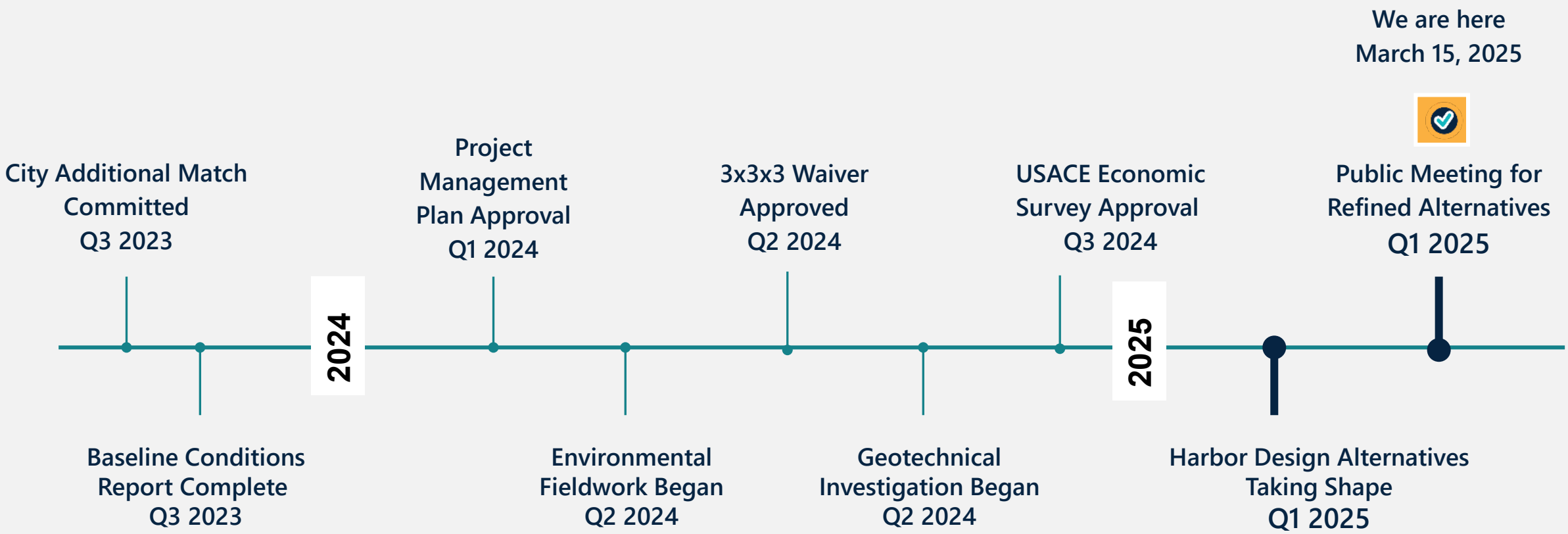

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