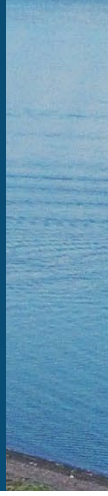
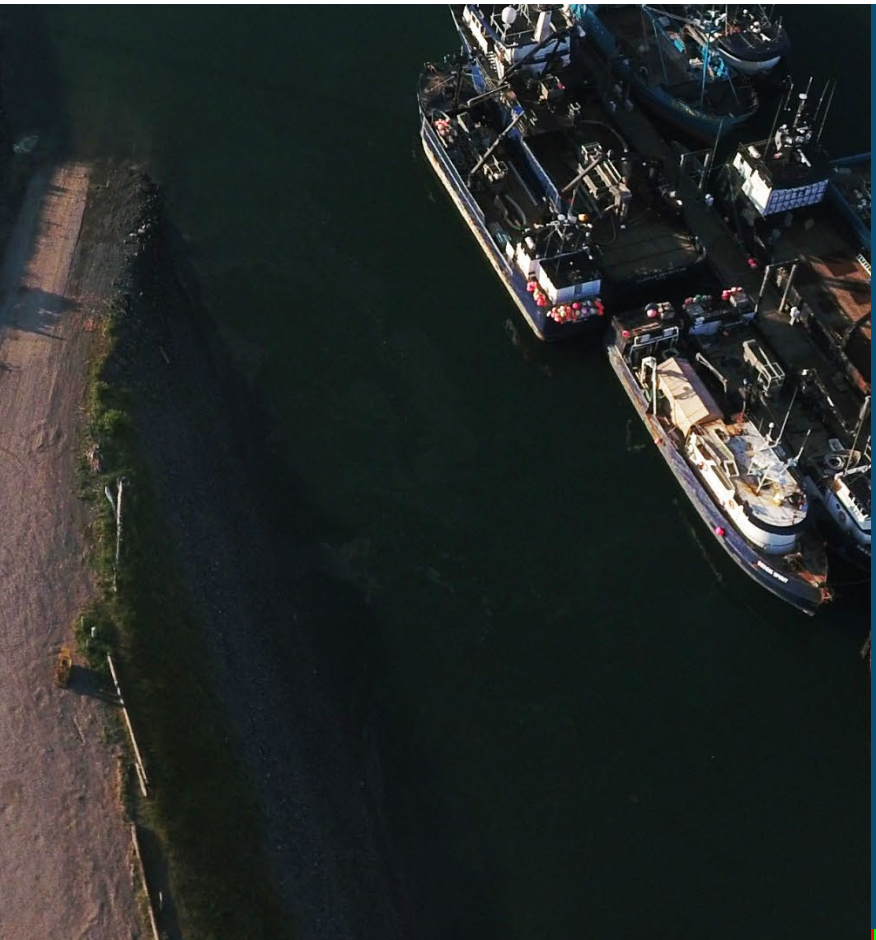


Homer Harbor Expansion Study

Public Outreach Summary



March 2025
Public Meeting #3

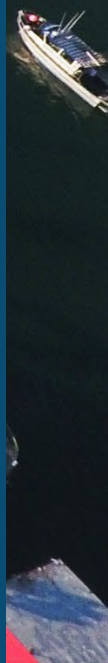


Table of Contents

Attachments

Introduction

The Homer Harbor Expansion Study, a collaborative effort between the City of Homer and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is a feasibility study and environmental analysis for a possible new harbor basin for large vessels adjacent to the existing small boat harbor. The study will develop, will evaluate the feasibility of, and may recommend a harbor expansion design, which will be documented in an Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Analysis (IFR/EA), also known as a District Final Report. This document will be submitted to USACE headquarters in Washington, DC for final approval. Only if a harbor expansion is recommended and approved by USACE, might the city and USACE then begin a multi-year design, funding, and permitting process for a harbor expansion.

While the USACE process includes only one formal public comment opportunity, the City of Homer is committed to engaging the public early and gathering feedback throughout the study. The first public meeting was hosted by USACE in May 2023 as part of a 3-day Design Charette in Homer, Alaska, where stakeholders helped develop evaluation measures for consideration in the scoping phase. A second public meeting followed in September 2023, focusing on design alternative formulation and analysis, during which the initial array of alternatives was presented for public input. The third and final public meeting, held in March 2025, showcased fieldwork findings and the resulting refined alternatives.

This summary outlines the outreach strategies used, the tools employed for engagement, the results of the public outreach, and the feedback collected during the third public meeting of the Homer Harbor Expansion Study held on March 15, 2025.

Overview of Public Meeting #3

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, the Homer Harbor Expansion Study team hosted an in-person public meeting in Homer from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Kenai Peninsula College, Kachemak Bay Campus. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the public on the Study's progress, seek input on the refined alternatives, and further clarify the USACE design process and timeline. The format was an informal open house with a presentation (Attachment A) at 10:30 a.m. Approximately 55 people attended.

The City of Homer Port Director, Bryan Hawkins, opened by:

- Welcoming attendees;
- Emphasizing the harbor's vital role in Alaska's transportation network, connecting and supporting over 130 remote communities off the road system; and
- Highlighting that the harbor has been over capacity for more than 20 years.

Ronny McPherson, project manager for HDR—serving as the consulting owner representative for the City of Homer—introduced the City of Homer, USACE, and HDR team members before outlining the study's current phase: **Alternative Evaluation & Analysis.**

Curtis Lee, USACE's Study Project Manager, explained the USACE phases from scoping to completing a signed District Final Report. He emphasized that the public feedback opportunity on the USACE Tentatively Selected Plan will be the 30-day official public comment period of the District Draft Report. The comment period is anticipated to begin on September 1, 2025; the City of Homer will help with outreach and publicity. All public comments received during this period will be addressed by USACE in accordance with federal requirements.

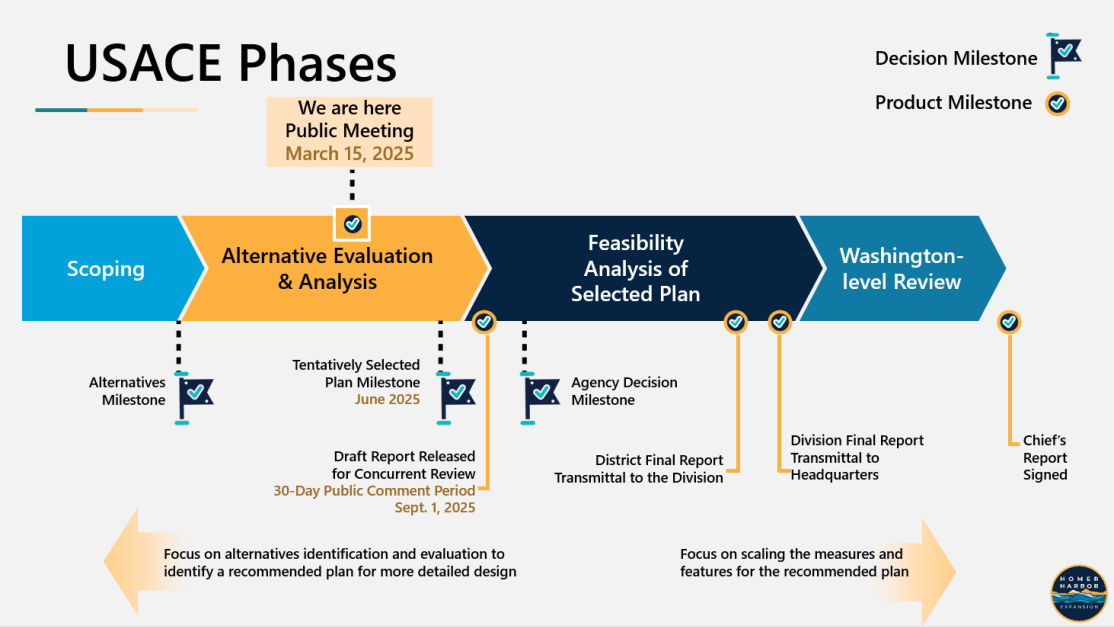


Figure 1. USACE Phases. In March 2025, the Study is at the Alternative Evaluation and Analysis Phase.

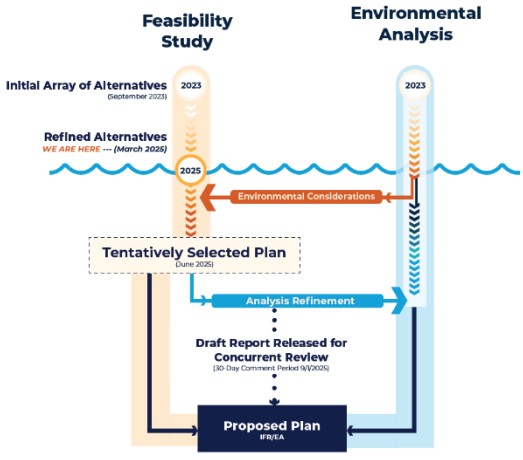


Figure 2. Flowchart of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).

Next, the team explained how they will develop a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the harbor expansion. The Homer Harbor Expansion Study helps shape the TSP, which is essentially the preferred alternative design, if a harbor expansion is recommended as a result of the data collected during the Study up to that point (see Figure 2: TSP Flowchart). Once the TSP is selected, it will be reviewed and refined based on environmental analysis and other screening criteria to identify the Final Proposed Plan for the harbor, called the District Final Report (also known as the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Analysis [IFR/EA]), which will be submitted to USACE headquarters in Washington, DC, for review and approval.

The team shared information about how the alternatives were refined and the work completed during the Alternative Evaluation and Analysis Phase that helped shape these refined alternatives. Based

largely off fleet projections, four design alternatives were presented (see Figure 3), along with the No Action Alternative, which represents the existing condition, and is an alternative always considered and compared against. The fleet analysis serves as a foundation for the Study team to right-size the harbor design ideas. Other critical work that has been advanced and serves to inform the harbor design includes:

- Vessel Simulation
- Wave Modeling
- Baseline Conditions
- Environmental Analysis

More information about this important work can be found on the website at https://homerharborexpansion.com/additionalinfo/.

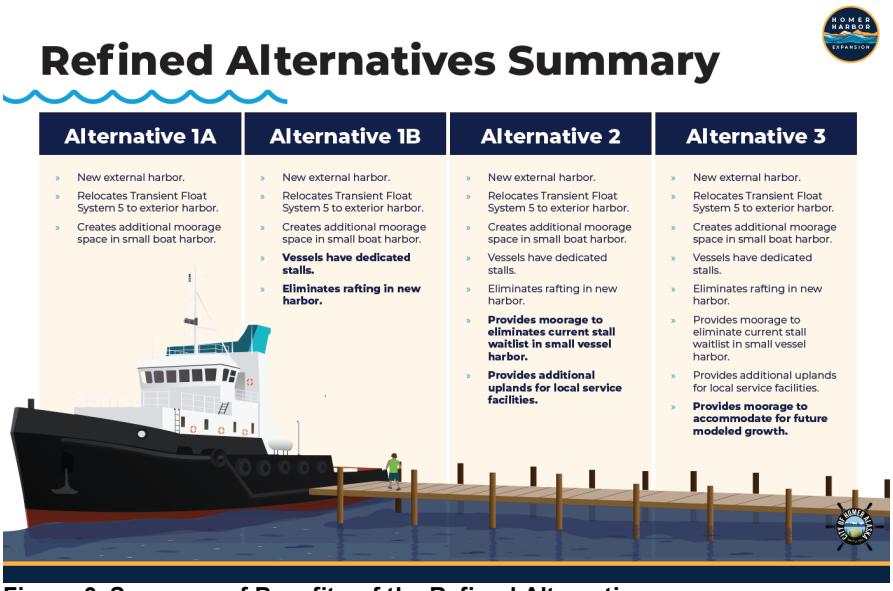


Figure 3. Summary of Benefits of the Refined Alternatives.

1. **Alternative 0: No Action – Existing Conditions**
   The study will compare the existing conditions (no action) against conditions created by an expanded harbor design(s) to determine the value and feasibility of an expansion.

2. **Alternative 1A: Immediate Needs, Idea 1, Idea 2**
   Alternative 1A features a solution that addresses immediate harbor needs. This includes a new external harbor that accommodates vessels on Transient Float System 5, currently operating in the small boat harbor. This solution also accommodates vessels that use the Deep-Water Dock and opens additional moorage in the existing small boat harbor. Large vessels are still required to raft within the new harbor basin. A waitlist remains for the small boat harbor.

3. **Alternative 1B: Immediate Needs+, Idea 1, Idea 2**
   Alternative 1B contains all Alternative 1A features with the addition of dedicated stalls in a

new harbor basin for large vessels, significantly reducing or eliminating the need for rafting. This alternative provides an opportunity for additional uplands development for local service facilities such as a fuel dock or barge ramp. A waitlist remains for the small boat harbor.

4. **Alternative 2: Current Needs**
   Alternative 2 contains all Alternative 1B features and includes additional floats to accommodate the current waitlist for moorage in the small boat harbor as well as additional uplands for local services facilities. This alternative meets the existing harbor needs and demand.

5. **Alternative 3: Modeled Growth**
   Alternative 3 features the largest footprint for an expansion to meet current and future projected needs of the harbor by containing all features from Alternative 2 with the addition of extended uplands and floats to accommodate modeled growth over the next 50 years.

Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2, and 3 assume that the area within the existing harbor where System 5 is currently located would be repurposed with new floats to support reducing the waitlist of smaller vessels. For detailed design concepts, please see **Attachment B: Posters** or visit the project website's Past Meetings Page: March 15, 2205 Meeting Materials.

Following the presentation, the meeting transitioned into the poster session, where attendees could participate in one-on-one conversations and Q&A with Study team members (Figure 4 and Figure 5).

Meeting materials (**Attachment B**) included:

- 13 informational posters
- Welcome Agenda Handout
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Project Fact Sheet
- Fieldwork Handout
- Comment Sheets

Figure 4. (Left) HHE Harbor Director, Bryan Hawkins, talking with a member of the community after the presentation.

Figure 5. (Right) HHE Communications Officer, Jenny Carroll, talking through alternatives.

The Study update also shared how the community has been engaged since the beginning of the feasibility study. As of January 2025, the items shown in Figure 6 are ways the Homer Harbor Expansion Study team has connected with the community.

Figure 6. Homer Harbor Expansion Study Team Community Connection Activities.

Publicity

With the Homer Harbor Expansion website as a key resource, the public meeting was publicized through paid and earned media, email, social media, flyers, postcards, and more (see Figure 7 and **Attachment C**), including:

- Meeting information on the project website: https://homerharborexpansion.com/get-involved-replace/
- Advertisements in local newspapers:
  - One display ad on February 27, 2025, in the *Homer News*
  - One display ad on February 28, 2025, in the *Peninsula Clarion*
  - Four online ads that ran from March 1 through March 15, 2025, in the *Homer News*
  - Four online ads that ran from March 1 through March 15, 2025, in the *Peninsula Clarion*
- A postcard delivered to 3,000 residents in the Homer city limits sent the last week of February

- Electronic emails sent to the project's email subscribers:
  - Announcement on February 28, 2025
  - This Week Reminder on March 10, 2025
  - Today Reminder on March 15, 2025
  - Thank You on March 18, 2025
- A flyer posted at 24 project area locations:

Homer Harbor Expansion Flyer Postings			
Save U More	UAA/KPC	Islands & Oceans	The Bagel Shop
Safeway	Land's End	Homer Theatre	Salvation Army
Homer Library	Zen Den Cafe	Homer Bookstore	Mike's Alaskan Eatery
Bubbles	Ulmer's	The Grog Shop	The Job Center
NOMAR	Kachemak Gear Shed	The Washboard	Harbormaster's Office
Bay Club	Boatyard Cafe	Cole's Market	East End Grog Shop

- A City of Homer Media Advisory
- Two articles published in the *Homer News* (3/13/25) and *Peninsula Clarion* (3/14/25)
- Social media posts:
  - Facebook Event on February 11, 2025
  - Facebook Post – Announcement on February 28, 2025
  - Facebook Post – Reminder on March 11, 2025
  - Facebook Post – Today on March 15, 2025
  - Instagram Post – Announcement on February 28, 2025
  - Instagram Post – Reminder on March 4, 2025
  - Instagram Post – Reminder on March 11, 2025
  - Instagram Post - Reminder on March 13, 2025
  - Instagram Post - Reminder on March 15, 2025
  - Instagram Post – Thank you on March 20, 2025
- City of Homer Website Main page: https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/homer-harbor-expansion-study-public-meeting-saturday-march-15-1030-am
- Personalized emails (10+) inviting Homer City Council, Port & Harbor Commission, Economic Development Commission and Planning Commission, Political Representatives, and Tribal Representatives

Figure 7. Publicity of the Homer Harbor Expansion Public Meeting #3: Top left, flyer; top right, display ad; middle left, postcard; middle left, social media post; bottom, online ad.

Summary of Comments and Q/A

Members of the community were invited to talk with and ask questions of the Study team during the poster session immediately following the presentation. Comment cards were also available for written comments.

Community feedback largely consisted of support for its economic potential, as well as concerns regarding infrastructure capacity (parking, launch ramps, roads, non-motorized access, etc.), environmental impacts (sedimentation, ice), and effects on small businesses. Commenters expressed a desire for additional project information including cost data, data sharing, and working group processes. Comment themes and details from one-on-one conversations between the Study team and meeting attendees are as follows:

Support:

- Support for the project and potential to increase the City's tax base.
- Support for Alternative 1B and Alternative 3, with the caveats of increased demand for parking and Load and Launch Ramp.
- Several attendees who attended the September 2023 meeting felt the alternatives were more clearly presented in this meeting.

Requests/Questions/General Comments/Issues for Consideration:

- Questions about orientation of the harbor opening and potential exposure of the harbor to drifting ice.
- Many questions about uplands purpose, construction method, and features.
- Noted an increased number of vessels may require road size increase.
- Suggestion to include green infrastructure in the harbor's design.
- Interest in knowing the cost per alternative.
- Requested clarification on waitlist data.
- Noted that there is a need for more parking.
- Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's coastal training expressed a desire to be included in or have a working relationship similar to the environmental working group.
- Expressed curiosity about how a large-scale current model will show impacts to sedimentation and shared the strong desire to protect Mud Bay.
- Would like more specifics on breakwater composition and design:
    - Can the breakwater be paved or built on for a walkway?
- Wanted to know if the Study is using the existing Kachemak Bay Hydrodynamic Model.
- Asked if background information and data collected for this study will be made public.
- Interested in knowing what information USACE took away from the harbor user group sessions and how the information will the information be used.
    - Answer: The information gathered was foundational to the development of the economic and fleet models upon which the alternatives are based.

- Requested specific information about the number of boats the current harbor is designed to accommodate and how that compares to the alternatives.
- Requested that the team share information from the 2007 harbor expansion study.

Concerns:

- Noted that the current Load and Launch ramp is maxed out and had concerns for Alternative 3 accommodating the waitlist.
- Some concern was expressed regarding nonmotorized vessels, particularly challenges with kayaks and recommending that alternatives consider recreational boats.
- A few people expressed disappointment that there was not a group Q&A session; others enjoyed the one-on-one attention offered.
- Interest in economic impacts, including whether larger vessels would attract corporate businesses that might negatively impact small, local, family-run operations.
- Noted that alternatives should accommodate larger vehicles with a very wide turn radius, especially around fuel access.

Seven written comments were received during and immediately following the meeting:

- Consider parking for alternatives, address cascading effects on other Alaska ports/harbors from increasing traffic, consider emergency response needs for a catastrophic event in Southcentral.
- Consider impacts on Kachemak Bay Water Trails near Pier One Theatre, add Coast Guard considerations.
- Ensure that the project is fully accessible and ADA compliant. Recommend connecting with Homer ADA Compliance Board.
- Concerns that expansion may not be needed due to decreasing fishing fleet.
- Support for the expansion, concern that there are no cost estimates at this stage.

Meeting results including sign-in sheets and written comments are within **Attachment D**.

ATTACHMENT A

Meeting Presentation

Agenda

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

- Introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- Progress Update
- Alternatives Update
- What's Next
- Closing

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

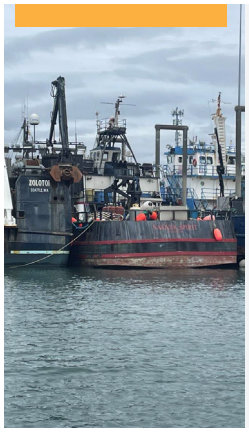
- **Ronald McPherson**
  Project Manager/Lead Engineer**
- **KC Kent**
  Coastal **
- **Amy Burnett**
  Strategic Communications Lead**
- **Pearl-Grace Pantaleone**
  Strategic Communications Support**

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

- Introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- Progress Update
- Alternatives Update
- What's Next
- Closing

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

- introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- Progress Update
- Alternatives Update
- What's Next
- Closing

USACE Phases

Decision Milestone

Product Milestone

We are here
Public Meeting
March 15, 2025

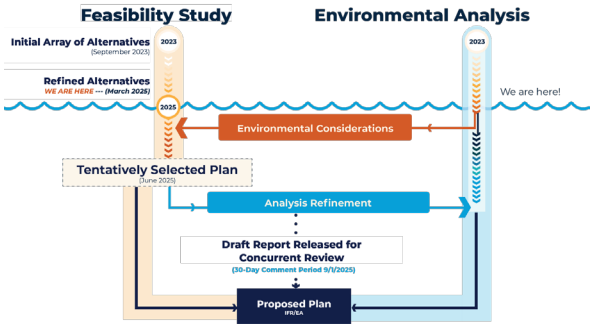
Scoping | Alternative Evaluation & Analysis | Feasibility Analysis of Selected Plan | Washington-level Review

- 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)

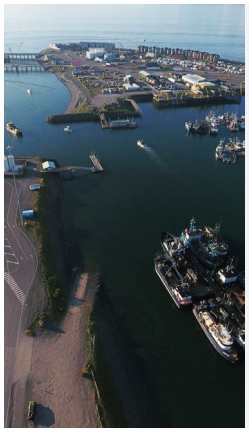


HHE Path to TSP

Economics	Engineering	Environmental Resources	Cultural Resources
– National Economic Development (NED) Analysis	– Data gathering/ analysis/ documentation	– Environmental Activities Pre-AMM	– Consultation with SHPO and other stakeholders
– Regional Economic Development (RED)		– Environmental Activities Post-AMM to TSP	
– Environmental Quality (EQ)			
– Other Social Effects (OSE)			

Progress Update
Supporting Refined Alternatives Development

- Introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- **Progress Update**
- Alternatives Update
- What's Next
- Closing



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

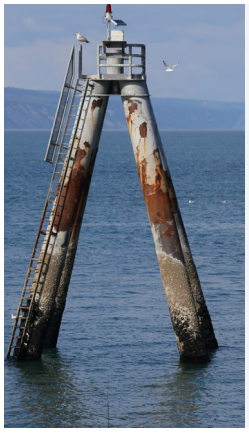
Why It Matters
- Helps determine the potential location, depth, and boundaries of an expansion.
- More data allows for realistic designs and construction estimates.

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.

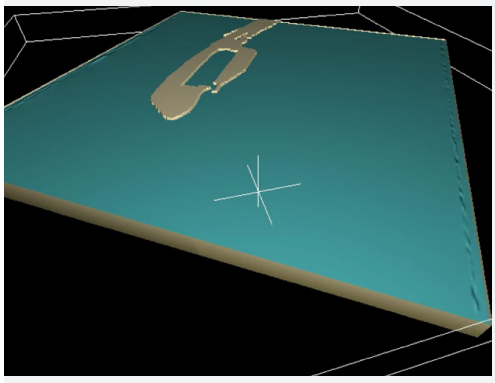


Wave Modeling

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.

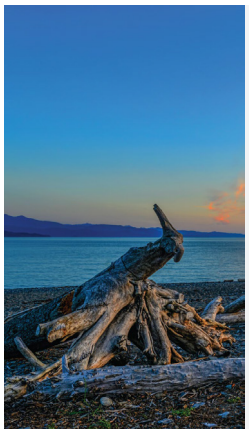
What's Next
- As alternatives are advanced, preliminary harbor designs will be modeled.
- Modeling compares baseline conditions against conditions created by the design.

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.

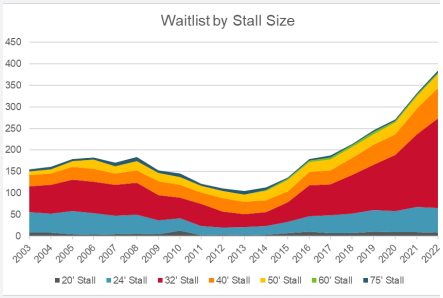
Why It Matters
- Environmental laws and regulations (e.g., the National Environmental Policy Act) are a key driver in environmental analysis for the Study.
- The Study team is committed to protecting the environment and preserving Homer's natural beauty.

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

- Introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- Progress Update
- **Alternatives Update**
- What's Next
- Closing

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.

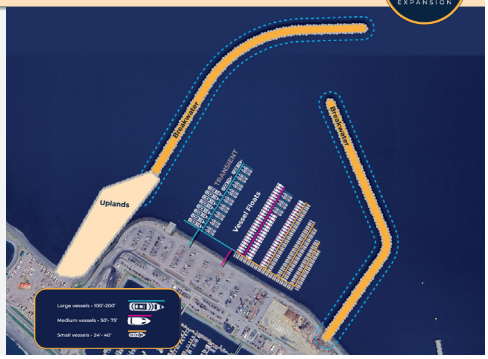
Meets the existing harbor needs and demand.

Alternative 2 - Idea 1

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

Alternative 2 - Idea 2

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



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

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

- Introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- Progress Update
- Alternatives Update
- What's Next
- Closing

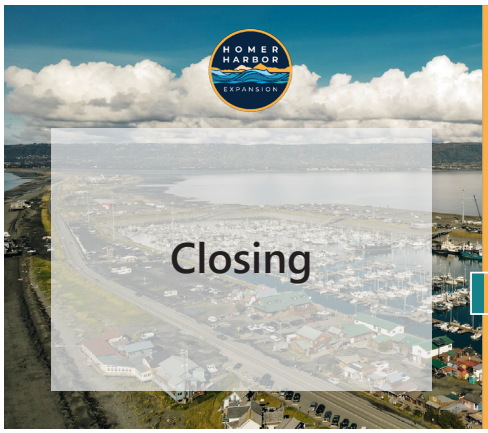
Road to Tentative Plan/Draft Report

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

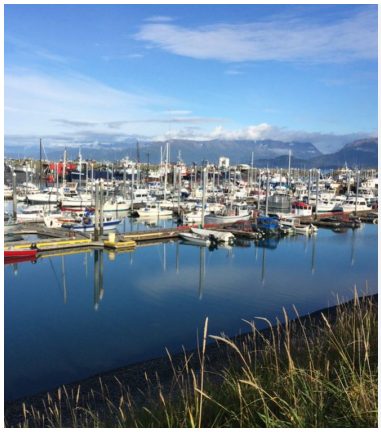
- **WE ARE HERE!** Alternatives are advanced to conceptual-design level based on functionality and other influences (e.g., reducing environmental and cultural impact).
  - Still in design and refinement
  - **Your feedback matters!**
- **WHAT'S NEXT!** Study team updates designs, then reviews alternatives. 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



- Introductions
- Why & Where
- USACE Process
- Progress Update
- Alternatives Update
- What's Next
- Closing



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

ATTACHMENT B

Meeting Materials

Posters

Welcome

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

Homer Harbor Expansion Public Meeting

Feedback is welcomed via email, phone, or web

Email:
info@homerharborexpansion.com

Phone:
(907) 268-2909

For more information:
homerharborexpansion.com

Scan each QR code with your smartphone.

Charter Document

Vision

Recognizing Homer's unique environmental setting and our common desire to live, work, and play here, we will enhance Homer's maritime opportunities in a fiscally, environmentally, and socially responsible manner for the benefit of all.

Mission

Work collaboratively with all segments of the community to explore opportunities to expand necessary infrastructure while ensuring Homer's maritime future, navigational safety, environmental integrity, and regional connectivity. Align the development of any opportunities with the City of Homer Port and Harbor Department Mission Statement.

Goals and Objectives

- Relieve transportation congestion
- Improve safety and efficiency within the harbor(s)
- Reduce potential for environmental impacts within the harbor(s)
- Foster a collaborative partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Expand the community's economic base
- Foster the maritime trades industry and other year-round economic opportunities
- Enhance navigational safety and regional connectivity
- To the extent feasible, prioritize incorporation of:
  - Green energy (e.g., solar, wind, tidal)
  - Green infrastructure (e.g., adding vegetation, capturing runoff)
  - Food security (e.g., support reliable delivery of food and supplies needed in regional communities)
  - Polar security (e.g., provide support for federal security measures related to arctic navigation)
- Deliver a balanced harbor design that:
  - Performs necessary port and harbor functions
  - Has pleasing aesthetics
  - Is within a sustainable construction, operations, and maintenance budget
  - Maintains environmental integrity and quality of life
  - Minimizes adverse impacts to the community
  - Provides for flexibility that promotes smart growth and a blue economy
  - Supports services for large vessels
  - Supports the U.S. Coast Guard's mission at land and at sea

Success Factors

- Proactively collaborate with the community and port and harbor stakeholders to provide meaningful community and stakeholder engagement opportunities
- Provide transparency of the decision-making process and design development
- Align with national priorities for investing in future infrastructure
- Engage scientific agencies through study advancement
- Promote educational, research, and scientific opportunities
- Foster collaborative relationships with Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and other key stakeholder agencies
- Provide applicable utility providers (e.g., water, sewer, electric) with the necessary input to deliver required support infrastructure
- Promote strong, sustained support and leadership from the City Staff, City Council, and associated Commissions
- Identify risks early and manage them appropriately
- Consistently consider community-wide socioeconomic effects that may result from harbor expansion and align with the current community-wide planning policy
- Create and sustain a safe, respectful, collaborative, and enjoyable work environment for all City, consultant, and contractor staff
- Complete construction activities on time, to specification, and within target costs
- Encourage innovation with a focus on reducing costs, enhancing the environment, and fostering thoughtful community growth

USACE Process for Study Delivery

We are here
Public Meeting
March 15, 2025

Decision Milestone
Product Milestone

Scoping → Alternative Evaluation & Analysis → Feasibility Analysis of Selected Plan → Washington-level Review

- Alternatives Milestone
- Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone — June 2025
- Draft Report Released for Concurrent Review — 30-Day Public Comment Period — September 1, 2025
- Agency Decision Milestone
- District Final Report Transmittal to the Division
- Division Final Report Transmittal to Headquarters
- Chief's Report Signed

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

Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan

Why is this work 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

Timeline

- Homer-USACE Completes Homer Harbor Expansion Planning Study — 2019-20
- 25% City Match Committed — 2019, 2020

2023

- 25% State Match Committed — Q1
- 50% Federal Match Committed
- Enter Federal Cost Share Agreement
- USACE Public Design Charrette — Q2
- City Council Adopts HHE Charter
- Alternatives To Carry Forward Selected
- Public Meeting To Refine Alternatives — Q3
- City Additional Match Committed
- USACE ALTERNATIVES AND MEASURES MILESTONE COMPLETE
- Baseline Conditions Report Complete — Q4

2024

- Project Management Plan Approval — Q1
- Environmental Fieldwork Began — Q2
- 3x3x3 Waiver Approved
- Geotechnical Investigation Began
- USACE Economic Survey Approval — Q3

2025

- Harbor Design Alternatives Taking Shape — Q1
- **Public Meeting For Refined Alternatives** — *We are here*
- Draft Plan Developed — Q2
- Public Comment Period For Draft Plan — Q3
- Draft Plan Goes Through USACE Agency Review *(Q4 2025 - Q1 2026)* — Q4

2026

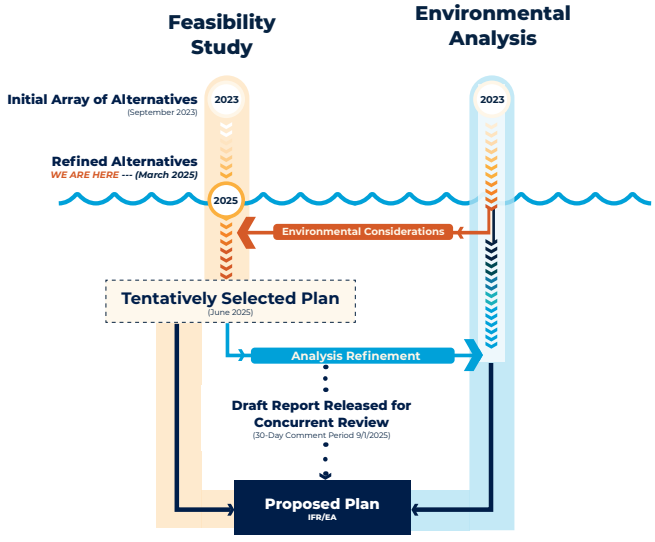
- Q1
- Q2 — AGENCY DECISION MILESTONE

2027

- Final Chief's Report — Q1

What is happening now?

The Homer Harbor Expansion Study is both a feasibility study and an environmental analysis that happens simultaneously. We like to call it the Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Analysis. They both inform a proposed plan for the harbor called the District Final Report (also known as **Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Analysis [IFR/EA]**) that is submitted to USACE headquarters in Washington, DC



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 general public (as of January 2025):

- **3** Trips to Juneau
- **1** Trip to Washinton DC
- **1** Interactive Website — Launched early 2023
- **3** Public Meetings
  - #1: Design Charette — May 17-19, 2023
  - #2: Initial Array of Alternatives — September 23, 2023
  - #3: Today! — March 18, 2025
- **24** Written monthly updates and in-person quarterly updates — to Homer City Council & in the City Newsletter
- **3** Study Articles — Published in: Homer News, Peninsula Clarion, Alaska Business Monthly, AGC's The Alaska Contractor
- **3** Conference Presentations
  - American Water Resources Association, Alaska Chapter, **April 2024**
  - Young Coastal Scientists and Engineers Conference, **July 2024**
  - Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, **October 2024**
- **2** Council Champions

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

What has been done to inform the study?

Geophysical Data – August 2024

Sub-bottom profiling, hydrographic and topographic surveys conducted in summer 2024 provided updated seafloor elevations and showed that the current harbor seabed is comprised of gravel, pebble, and rock and that the possible expansion area contains impenetrable rock. This data helps inform geotechnical work to be performed summer of 2025 which will provide more accurate designs and construction cost estimates.

Vessel Simulation – Summer 2024, ongoing

In summer 2024, imagery of Homer was captured that will help build a model of the tentatively selected plan harbor design. Once a preferred design is selected, vessel pilots will virtually navigate a simulation of the design and provide feedback.

Wave Modeling – ongoing

Wave modeling was performed of the prevailing conditions in Kachemak Bay to characterize wave conditions and impacts to evaluate harbor design, vessel safety, and infrastructure resilience. As alternatives are developed this modeling will be used to improve designs and compare baseline conditions against conditions created by the new harbor design.

Environmental Review – ongoing

Led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), an environmental review is ongoing and focused on the collection of relevant environmental information about the project and project area. This will be the last milestone to inform the proposed harbor design.

Scan the QR code or visit homerharborexpansion.com/additionalinfo to learn more!

Refined Alternatives Summary

Alternative 1A	Alternative 1B	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
New external harbor.	New external harbor.	New external harbor.	New external harbor.
Relocates Transient Float System 5 to exterior harbor.	Relocates Transient Float System 5 to exterior harbor.	Relocates Transient Float System 5 to exterior harbor.	Relocates Transient Float System 5 to exterior harbor.
Creates additional moorage space in small boat harbor.	Creates additional moorage space in small boat harbor.	Creates additional moorage space in small boat harbor.	Creates additional moorage space in small boat harbor.
	Vessels have dedicated stalls.	Vessels have dedicated stalls.	Vessels have dedicated stalls.
	Eliminates rafting in new harbor.	Eliminates rafting in new harbor.	Eliminates rafting in new harbor.
		Provides moorage to eliminates current stall waitlist in small vessel harbor.	Provides moorage to eliminate current stall waitlist in small vessel harbor.
		Provides additional uplands for local service facilities.	Provides additional uplands for local service facilities.
			Provides moorage to accommodate for future modeled growth.

Alternative 1A: Immediate Needs

Alternative 1A would feature a solution that addresses immediate Harbor needs. This includes a new external harbor that relocates Transient Float System 5 from the small vessel harbor into the exterior harbor, accommodates vessels that use the Deep Water Dock, and provides additional moorage in existing small vessel harbor. Large vessels would still be required to raft within the new harbor basin. A waitlist remains for the small vessel harbor.

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 as well as provides large vessels with dedicated stalls in new harbor basin and eliminates rafting. This alternative provides opportunity for additional uplands for local services facilities such as a fuel dock or barge ramp. A waitlist remains for the small vessel harbor.

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

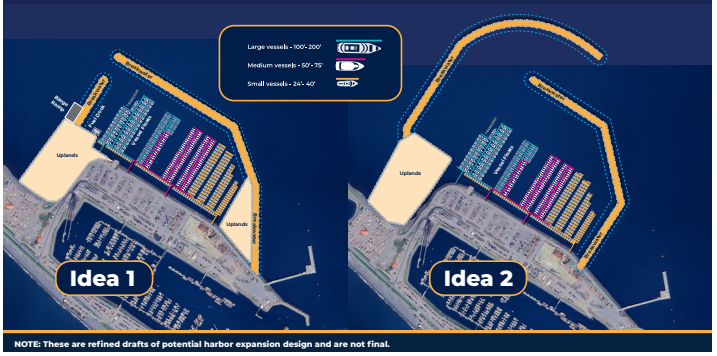
Alternative 2: Current Needs

Alternative 2 contains all Alternative 1B features and includes additional floats to accommodate current waitlist for moorage in the small vessel harbor and provides additional uplands for local services facilities. This alternative meets the existing harbor needs and demand.

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

Alternative 3: Modeled Growth

Alternative 3 features the largest footprint for an expansion to meet current and future projected needs of the harbor by containing all features from Alternative 2 with the addition of extended uplands and floats to accommodate modeled growth over the next 50 years.



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

Posters

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION STUDY PUBLIC MEETING #3: STUDY UPDATE

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining the third public meeting for the Homer Harbor Expansion Study. Your participation is important to us. The purpose of this meeting is to present an update on work accomplished to date and how the results of that work has refined the alternative designs for the study under consideration.

In May 2023, USACE hosted a public meeting where participants helped identify an initial array of alternatives. In September 2023, the project team presented these preliminary alternatives for public review and feedback. The study's pace was slowed in 2024 due to funding issues at the federal level. The issues are resolved, the study is fully funded, and work is progressing well. Over the past year, USACE has conducted a robust screening process on the preliminary alternatives, and the study team has advanced critical data-gathering efforts and collected public input. All of these efforts have been geared toward delivering refined alternatives at 35% design, which we will introduce today. See the agenda on the next page.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The comments at this meeting will be reviewed and evaluated for further refinements to the alternatives. The City of Homer, USACE, and HDR will collaborate to select a preferred design for the study Feasibility Report. Once the draft Feasibility Report is complete, there will be an official public comment period that will be facilitated by USACE, which is planned for fall of 2025. The City of Homer will help advertise this to ensure the input and ideas of the diverse Homer community are considered and reflected.

Welcome Handout/Agenda

AGENDA

WE ARE HERE

REFINED ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS PRESENTATION
Saturday, March 15, 2025 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

10-10:30 AM — WELCOME
- Meet & greet with project team
- Check out posters
- Take a seat for presentation

10:30 AM — PRESENTATION
- Listen to presentation
- Save questions for poster session with project team

11:15AM — POSTER SESSION & Q&A WITH PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS
- Continue to check out posters
- Ask questions
- Learn more
- Share comments

12 NOON — PUBLIC MEETING CONCLUDES
- Thank you for coming!

CONNECT WITH US

Email: info@homerharborexpansion.com

Mail: Homer Harbormaster Office
4311 Freight Dock Road
Homer, AK 99603

Phone: 907-268-2909

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION STUDY FAQ

Feasibility Study/General Investigation

Project FAQ March 2025

1. What is the purpose of the feasibility study?

The study, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in cooperation with the City of Homer (City), has been initiated to address Homer Harbor's capacity challenges and identify solutions that accommodate both existing and future demand for moorage. It will also address the navigational hazard the small boat harbor entrance represents for large vessels. The study is meant to:

- Identify means to accommodate large marine vessels presently tied three abreast on the transient float in the small boat harbor, as well as other large vessels that wish to homeport at the Harbor but are currently turned away because there is no room.
- Address the need to moor the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Aspen and potentially provide short-term moorage for their new fast cutter fleet for layover, provisioning, and repair work.
- Assess a range of potential impacts that the proposed alternatives design solutions would have on the environment.
- Simultaneously identify and evaluate the local or non-federal support and infrastructure needed to move the project forward should an expansion be recommended by the study. Assessments will also be made regarding potential impacts on supporting infrastructure and the community.
- Consider community input throughout the study, as your feedback will be crucial. Please visit the website to learn about upcoming public engagement opportunities.

2. Won't the harbor expansion and potential growth in large boat traffic increase the likelihood of environmental problems?

A robust environmental review process mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is required prior to the start of any construction. A NEPA document (e.g., environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement) will be developed to provide an analysis of the proposed alternatives designs and any associated environmental impacts.

3. Why does Homer Harbor need more space?

For years, demand for moorage in Homer's Small Boat Harbor has far exceeded the harbor's capacity. An expansion would support a robust future for Homer's maritime community, including navigational safety and regional connectivity.

- Harbor staff have creatively utilized the current harbor float system to meet demand. They accommodate 40 large vessels (86 to 180 feet) by rafting them three deep to transient floats. Staff members can fit 1,400 small vessels into about 900 stalls and 5,000 linear feet of transient side-tie moorage; however, there is still a significant waitlist for small vessel space.
- While staff have found ways to creatively utilize the existing port and harbor to its fullest extent, doing so comes with costs that include accelerated depreciation of the harbor's float systems, vessel damages and delays, and navigational hazards in the harbor's narrowed travel lanes.
- We are at risk of losing vessels in our harbor, which could have negative economic consequences including job loss and reduced revenues.

- Expanding the harbor will support the region's strong and diverse economy by meeting today's needs, promoting job opportunities in the marine trades and support sectors, and positioning Homer Harbor to flexibly meet future needs.

4. What issues will the Homer Harbor Expansion (HHE) study address?

The HHE study and concurrent efforts will assess several key aspects, including:

- Alternative approaches and designs to solve identified challenges, including the impacts of a no-build option:

The design alternatives will address increased demand for harbor space, navigational safety risks in the harbor's narrow travel lanes and at the mouth of the harbor, and improved ability to serve the diversity that commercial fishing, barge operations, research vessels, charter services, and recreational boat owners bring to Homer's economy.

- What will be evaluated in each alternative design approach:
  - » Impacts that changes to the harbor would have on the local community and infrastructure such as roads, traffic, and the electrical grid
- Economic opportunities and risks associated with changes to the harbor design
- Potential costs associated with changes to the harbor design
- Potential ecological impacts that the harbor's proposed design would have on Kachemak Bay and surrounding areas, and the mitigation measures that might be required to address them
- Potential impacts the recommended changes to the harbor design would have on other uses of the Homer Spit such as the tourism and fishing industries
- Whether the benefits of the project merit federal investment in construction

5. If the harbor expansion happens, does this mean Homer will host large cruise ships and freighters?

No. This study will look at how the harbor could accommodate more and larger boats. However, local and regional market conditions, combined with the state of other infrastructure around the harbor such as electrical transmission lines and roads, indicate that Homer is not designed to accommodate huge ships such as those serving the ports of Vancouver, BC, or Tacoma, WA. There are foundational market, geographical, and community factors that will likely continue to limit the size of vessels serving Homer.

6. Who is paying for the HHE study?

There is a cost-sharing agreement between the City of Homer and USACE. Each entity is expected to pay 50 percent of the roughly $4.2 million total cost. Half of the City's contribution has been funded by the State of Alaska.

7. Have all the necessary funds for the harbor expansion study been allocated?

The City has secured its share of the funds. USACE funding is allocated on an annual basis, with the intent that appropriate funding be allocated during each budget cycle to facilitate the study activities for that fiscal year. The USACE has allocated funding to support the study through 2025, and we are confident that they will allocate the funding needed for the remainder of this important study.

8. How long will the study take? I thought it was supposed to last 3 years.

Feasibility studies of this kind typically take about 3 years to complete however the pace of the Homer Harbor Expansion (HHE) study was slowed temporarily due to a federal funding gap for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. All USACE new start general investigation studies (GIs) funded through a FY 2023 congressionally designated appropriation, including the Homer Harbor Expansion Study, experienced similar funding gaps. The procedure for securing continuation funding for this Study in the FY24 federal budget (either through a second federal appropriation or through inclusion in the USACE workplan) was unclear, and no funding for FY24 was initially included. This has been remedied, and the Homer Harbor Expansion study has been fully funded for 2024 and 2025. Due to the slowed pace of the study while awaiting resolution of the funding uncertainty, we now expect the HHE study will take a totally of about 5 years, likely concluding in 2027.

9. When will the study findings be made public and how can I stay informed?

The study will take approximately 5 years to complete, with a final USACE report and recommendation anticipated sometime in 2027. There will be several opportunities over the course of the study for the community to review progress and provide input. Your feedback is important to ensuring the study's outcome is aligned with the community's needs. Stay involved by joining our mailing list to hear about the latest updates and share your input!

10. The harbor is overcrowded now and unable to accommodate the existing demand; will the study help improve this situation in the short term?

The harbor expansion study is an important first step to determine how the overcrowding issue could be addressed, along with identifying changes that could allow the harbor to accommodate future demand. The study alone will not solve the current problem of the harbor's overcrowding; addressing this challenge will take several years.

11. Besides USACE and the City of Homer, what other entities are involved in this study?

Residents, local elected officials, City staff, and business leaders have been and will continue to be involved through education and engagement opportunities. Additionally, the State of Alaska is supporting the study through a funding match to the City.

12. If the study concludes that an expansion of the harbor would be beneficial, when would construction start, and how long would it last?

At this point, it is too soon to speculate on possible construction schedules, costs, or harbor design options. Completing the current feasibility study is an important step, but the study alone will not result in any short-term harbor construction, nor does it indicate certainty that a harbor expansion will be pursued. The study will evaluate the opportunity, and the results will guide next steps.

13. Why were Alternatives with floating breakwaters not carried forward?

Alternatives with exclusively floating breakwaters were not carried forward due to the typical wave conditions/characteristics of Kachemak Bay. A floating breakwater would need to be excessively large to create a tranquil harbor. The 40-mile-long bay is problematic for constructability and cost, as well as the potential environmental footprint. Alternatives carried forward may include floating breakwater as part of the harbor structure (less exposed areas). The type of structure(s) such as floating breakwater, rock breakwater, sheet pile wall, etc. are used to create the various alternatives harbor configuration has not been determined at this time.

14. Has the project development team already selected a preferred design or construction materials to be used for the new harbor?

No, preferred design or materials have not been selected for the harbor expansion. The Homer Harbor Expansion Study is currently focused on assessing the feasibility of building a new harbor basin for large vessels and addressing the environmental considerations of building that basin. From evaluation and screening of design alternatives identified at the public design charette in May 2023, the project development team has been conducting fieldwork, preparing key models to help assess the impacts of alternatives, and advancing alternative design based on community impact and the results of other data collected to date. Alternatives are still in a conceptual design stage, and the team has not yet advanced to the point of recommending construction materials.

15. Did USACE, the City of Homer, and HDR (the project delivery team) consider an alternative that limits expansion of the harbor to the current surface footprint (not expanding outside the Homer Spit) to reduce impacts on the environment?

Yes, this was considered and evaluated as both a standalone alternative (Alternative 4) and a measure that could be implemented with other alternatives.

As a standalone alternative, excavation to increase available fleet space within the current harbor's footprint would not provide enough acreage to meet the study's needs or objectives, and the currently

installed infrastructure would need to be removed and replaced at an excessive cost to the City. Additionally, the existing harbor does not address the needs of larger vessels, including deeper draft and improved safety for ingress and egress. Creating a deeper draft within the current footprint also raises significant concerns regarding the stability of existing breakwaters.

An alternative similar to this was assessed in a previous study, but it did not provide the overall benefits required to advance the project. Furthermore, uplands property is a valuable economic driver for the City and the sustainability of the community's maritime economy. Uplands are used for harbor patron parking, shipping and receiving, lease revenue, and industry support for the fleet. An alternative that requires excavation and removal of current uplands would have adverse economic consequences while not fully addressing fleet needs.

To minimize the footprint of a new harbor basin, an expansion of the current harbor basin was also considered as a measure in combination with other alternatives. This would pose the same issues as a standalone alternative, while not significantly reducing the size of the new harbor basin's footprint and the associated potential impacts on the environment.

16. Why did the project cost increase?

The initial Federal Cost Share Agreement for the General Investigation (GI) study was for $3 million. Upon reaching the Alternatives and Measures Milestone and reviewing the existing geotechnical data for the area, the USACE project development team reconsidered the tasks to be completed during the study and added geophysical analysis and ship simulation to the scope of work to better inform choices about the materials, design, and locations of alternatives. These new elements add about $1.2 million to the study's original cost of $3 million.

- Geotechnical analysis is a necessary component of all USACE harbor designs and was added to the feasibility study stage so that the study delivery team would have sufficient data to:
  - » Inform choices about the materials, design, and location within the study area of the preferred alternative; and
  - » Produce a more accurate design and more reliable cost estimate on which to base decisions regarding advancement of the Homer Harbor Expansion.
- Based on the USACE Alaska District's experience with the Valdez and Kake Harbors, design and cost estimates completed during the GI phase without the benefit of geophysical data have yielded unfavorable results. Lack of geotechnical data could result in a 26 percent or greater increase in total breakwater material.

WEB: HomerHarborExpansion.com **Email:** info@homerharborexpansion.com **Phone:** 907-268-2909

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

What has been done to inform the study?

GEOPHYSICAL DATA

The geophysical effort uses non-invasive techniques to collect seafloor and sediment data of the harbor and surrounding area. The geophysical data will be used to select locations for more detailed geotechnical data collection through core sampling to provide soil borings. This work collectively helps improve preliminary design especially with predicting settlement of breakwater materials into the seafloor which has a large impact on cost.

What Was Done

Sub-bottom profiling, hydrographic survey, and topographic surveys of potential expansion footprint completed in July and August 2024:

- Sub-bottom profiling provided information on sediment density stratigraphy below the mudline.
- Topographic survey included elevation, contours, vegetation, and man-made structures.
- Hydrographic data provided crucial information about water depths, underwater terrain, and locations of submerged objects.

Key Findings

- Homer Harbor seabed is comprised primarily of sediments such as gravels, pebbles, and rock.

What's Next

Additional core sampling to categorize rock types in sub-sea floor layers.

- Collection is expected to require fewer than 10 borings.

Geotechnical data is collected after recommended location and design of expansion are selected.

- This data is used to identify the stability of the subsurface, which directly correlates to potential settlement of breakwater materials into the seafloor and initial breakwater design specifications.

Why It Matters

- Geophysical data at this Study stage helps determine the potential location, depth, and boundaries of an expansion.
- More data allows for realistic designs and construction cost estimates.

WEB: HomerHarborExpansion.com Email: info@homerharborexpansion.com Phone: 907-268-2909

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

What has been done to inform the study?

VESSEL SIMULATION

Vessel simulation for the Homer Harbor Expansion Study assesses vessel navigation, maneuverability, and safety within the proposed harbor design to inform optimal layout and infrastructure improvements.

What Was Done

- In summer 2024, USACE staff took photographs of the Homer area landscape from sea and land to build out a foundation for a future simulation of the selected harbor expansion design.

What's Next

- At the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) milestone, a simulation of the preferred design will be built at the Army Engineer Research and Development Center.
- Vessel pilots will use virtual reality to navigate a simulation of the proposed harbor and provide feedback.
- Additional 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 to optimize the functionality of the expanded harbor.
- Has potential to optimize design for a "right sized harbor," and scale it back to reduce costs.

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

What has been done to inform the study?

WAVE MODELING

Wave modeling characterized wave conditions in Kachemak Bay to evaluate harbor design performance, potential impacts, vessel safety, and infrastructure resilience.

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 can compare baseline conditions against conditions created by the new harbor design.

Why It Matters

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

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

What has been done to inform the study?

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Lead by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), an environmental review is ongoing and focused on collection of relevant environmental information about the project and project area.

What Was Done

- The Study team created an Environmental Working Group consisting of more than 30 key local stakeholders to provide insights and feedback.
- In July 2024, a two-day environmental workshop was hosted in Homer to build an ecological model in partnership with local experts.
- Near-shore beach seining, environmental DNA collection, and bottom trawl surveying and field work were completed in 2024 and early 2025 to identify and count species within the Study area throughout the seasons.

What's Next

- The ecological model is currently in review and refinement with the support from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists, who are completing a complementary kelp study for incorporation.

Why It Matters

- The National Environmental Policy Act is a key driver in the Study.
- The Study team is committed to protecting the environment and preserving Homer's natural beauty.

ATTACHMENT C

Meeting Publicity

Opinion Articles

News Sports Recreation Opinion Life Arts | Entertainment Contests Jobs
Obituaries Marketplace

Homer Port Director Bryan Hawkins. (Photo provided)

Opinion: The importance of the Homer Harbor expansion

Alaska's marine trades and service businesses must be on a competitive playing field with other ports and harbors.

By Bryan Hawkins
Friday, March 14, 2025 12:30pm | OPINION HOMER OPINION POINT OF VIEW

Homer, Alaska
HOMER NEWS
36°F

OPINION

The importance of the Homer Harbor expansion

By Bryan Hawkins • March 13, 2025 2:30 am

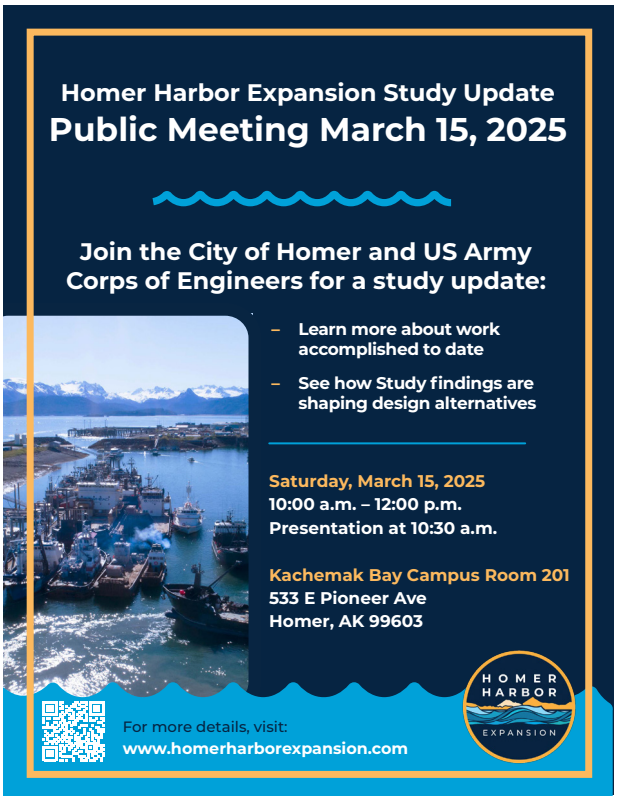
Tags: Homer Harbor, Point of View

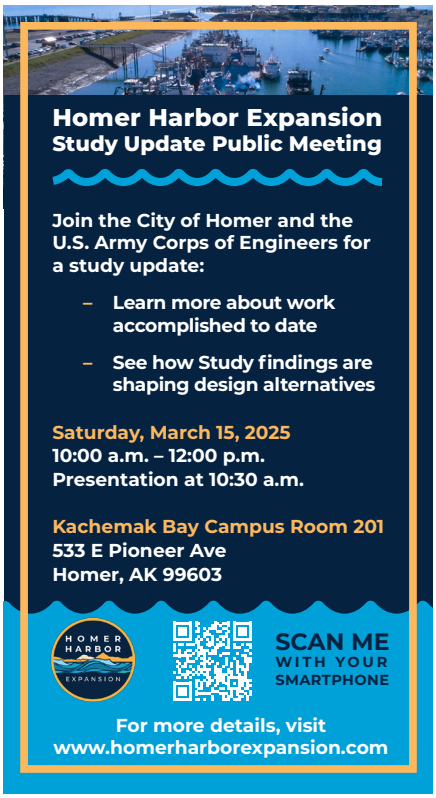
Homer Port Director Bryan Hawkins. (Photo provided)

Homer Harbor supports jobs tied to more than 1,000 commercial fishing permit holders, 600 commercial fishing vessels, and 90 freight shipping vessels, not to mention thousands of service and indirect jobs created by commercial fishing, freight movement and tourism. A well-functioning harbor is foundational to local businesses, family incomes and Homer's economic vitality.

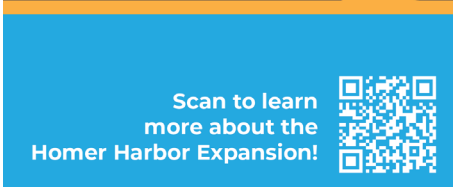
A study from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development reiterated the need for investment in maritime infrastructure, stating that to take advantage of new opportunities, Alaska's marine trades and service businesses must be on a competitive playing field with other ports and harbors. To do so, we need to invest in our harbor infrastructure.

Flyer Newspaper Advertisement

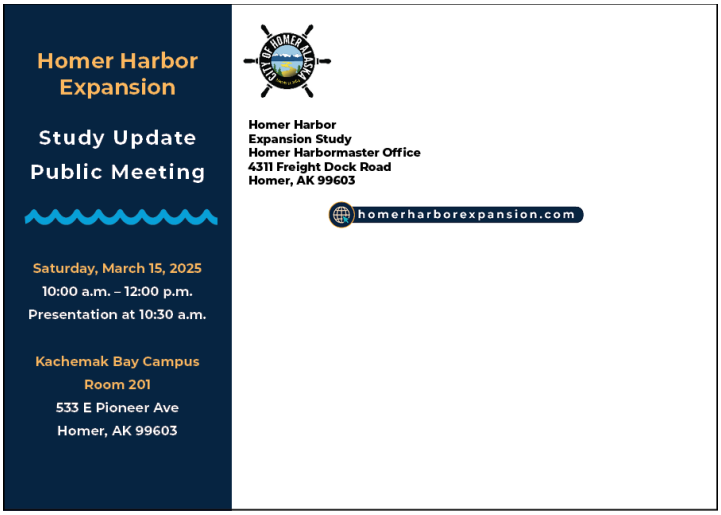




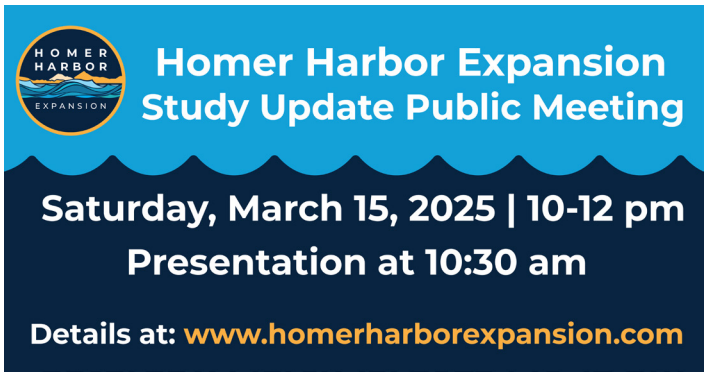
Online Advertisements

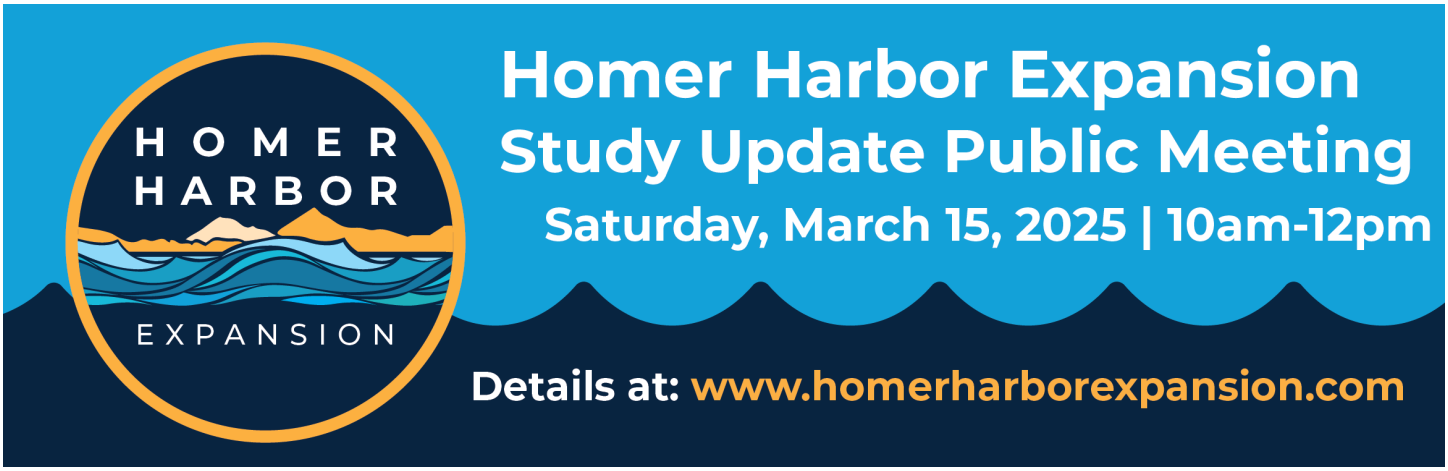


Postcard

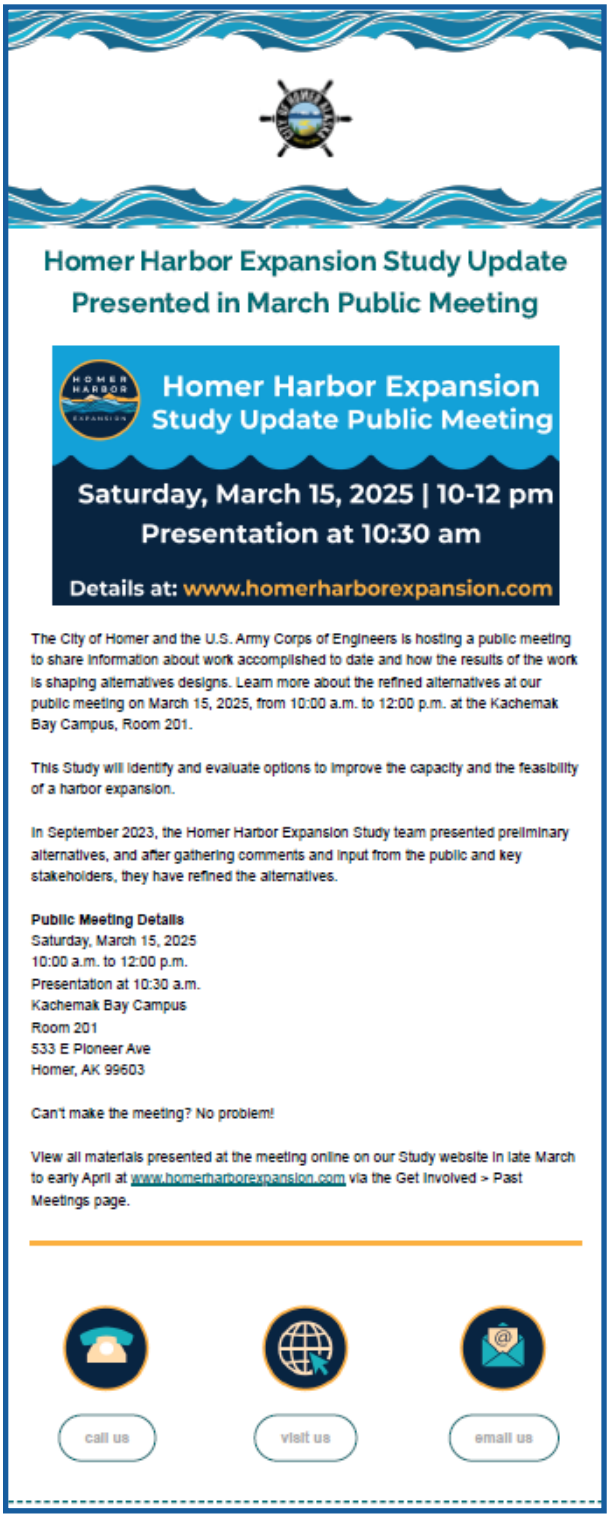


Social Media Advertisements





E-Blasts



Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Presented in March Public Meeting

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Public Meeting

Saturday, March 15, 2025 | 10-12 pm
Presentation at 10:30 am

Details at: www.homerharborexpansion.com

The City of Homer and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is hosting a public meeting to share information about work accomplished to date and how the results of the work is shaping alternatives designs. Learn more about the refined alternatives at our public meeting on March 15, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 201.

This Study will identify and evaluate options to improve the capacity and the feasibility of a harbor expansion.

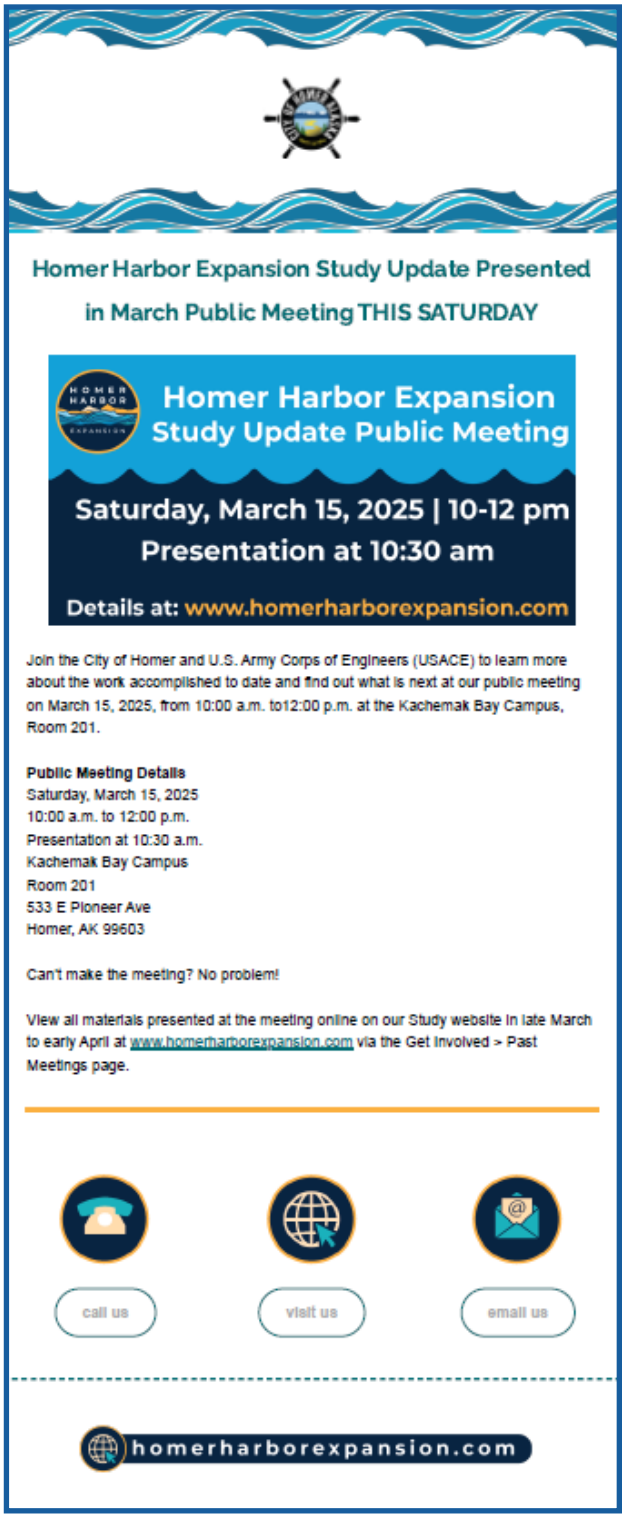
In September 2023, the Homer Harbor Expansion Study team presented preliminary alternatives, and after gathering comments and input from the public and key stakeholders, they have refined the alternatives.

Public Meeting Details
Saturday, March 15, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Presentation at 10:30 a.m.
Kachemak Bay Campus
Room 201
533 E Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Can't make the meeting? No problem!

View all materials presented at the meeting online on our Study website in late March to early April at www.homerharborexpansion.com via the Get Involved > Past Meetings page.

call us | visit us | email us



Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Presented in March Public Meeting THIS SATURDAY

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Public Meeting

Saturday, March 15, 2025 | 10-12 pm
Presentation at 10:30 am

Details at: www.homerharborexpansion.com

Join the City of Homer and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to learn more about the work accomplished to date and find out what is next at our public meeting on March 15, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to12:00 p.m. at the Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 201.

Public Meeting Details
Saturday, March 15, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Presentation at 10:30 a.m.
Kachemak Bay Campus
Room 201
533 E Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

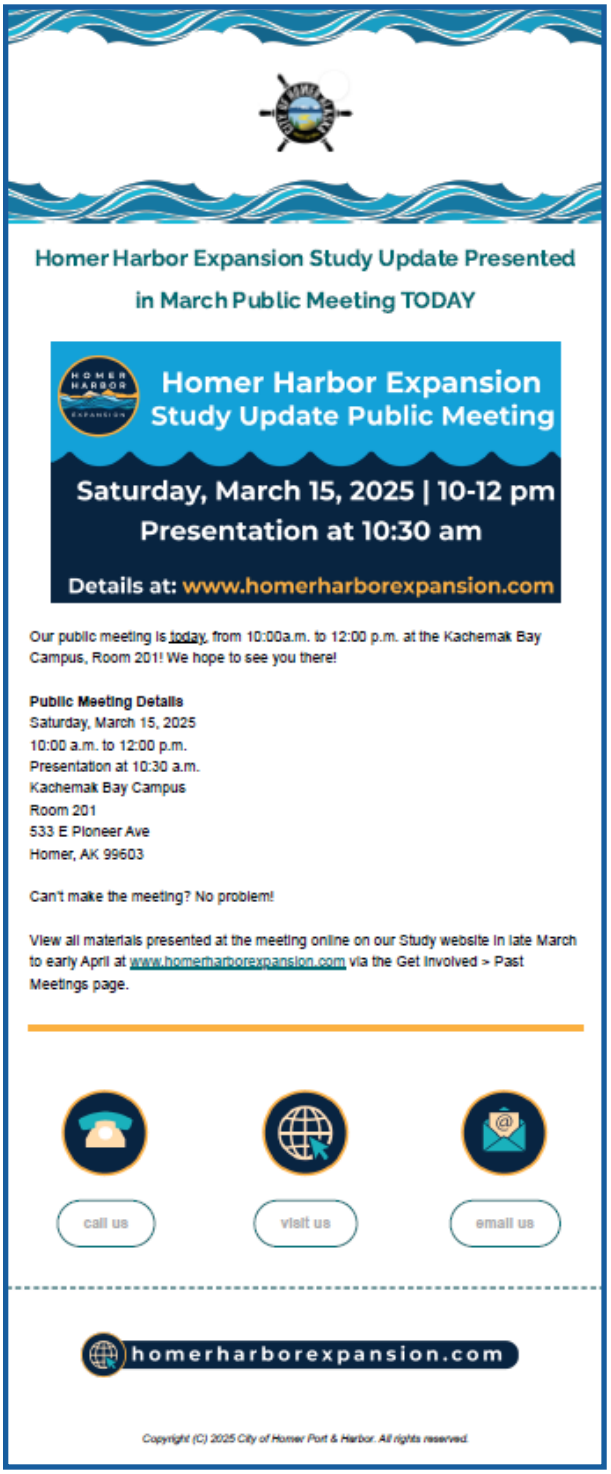
Can't make the meeting? No problem!

View all materials presented at the meeting online on our Study website in late March to early April at www.homerharborexpansion.com via the Get Involved > Past Meetings page.

call us | visit us | email us

homerharborexpansion.com

E-Blasts



Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Presented in March Public Meeting TODAY

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Public Meeting

Saturday, March 15, 2025 | 10-12 pm
Presentation at 10:30 am

Details at: www.homerharborexpansion.com

Our public meeting is today, from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 201! We hope to see you there!

Public Meeting Details
Saturday, March 15, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Presentation at 10:30 a.m.
Kachemak Bay Campus
Room 201
533 E Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

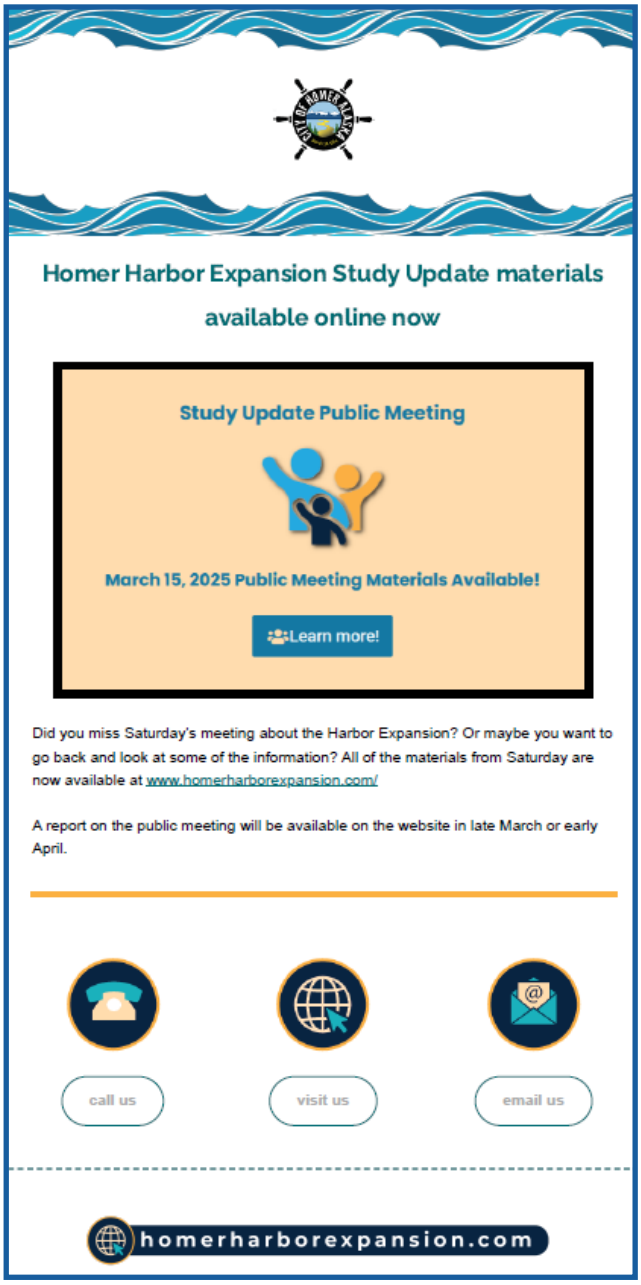
Can't make the meeting? No problem!

View all materials presented at the meeting online on our Study website in late March to early April at www.homerharborexpansion.com via the Get Involved > Past Meetings page.

call us | visit us | email us

homerharborexpansion.com

Copyright (C) 2025 City of Homer Port & Harbor. All rights reserved.



Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update materials available online now

Study Update Public Meeting

March 15, 2025 Public Meeting Materials Available!

Learn more!

Did you miss Saturday's meeting about the Harbor Expansion? Or maybe you want to go back and look at some of the information? All of the materials from Saturday are now available at www.homerharborexpansion.com/

A report on the public meeting will be available on the website in late March or early April.

call us | visit us | email us

homerharborexpansion.com

MEDIA ADVISORY

PRESS CONTACT:
Jennifer Carroll
(907) 435-3101
JCarroll@ci.homer.ak.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2025

City of Homer Hosting Public Meeting on Homer Harbor Expansion Study

Join the City of Homer and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to learn more about the work accomplished to date and how that work is informing refined alternative designs. The community is invited to attend this public meeting to receive a Study update, connect with the Study team, ask questions, and share feedback. A presentation will feature information about fieldwork analysis, refined alternatives, and next steps.

WHAT: Homer Harbor Expansion Study Public Meeting
WHO: City of Homer, USACE, HDR Engineering
WHEN: Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
WHERE: Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 201, 533 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, AK 99603
NOTE: This public meeting will be in person only. Materials will be provided online afterward. For more information, please visit www.homerharborexpansion.com.

About the Homer Harbor Expansion Study

The City of Homer (City) and USACE signed a Federal Cost Share Agreement to advance the Homer Harbor Expansion Study (Study). In collaboration with the City of Homer, USACE is leading a feasibility study to help determine whether it is technically feasible and financially viable to expand the Homer Harbor. USACE evaluated 13 initial design concepts identified at a community design charette in May 2023 and then narrowed these concepts to 5 preliminary alternatives in September 2023.

As part of the Study's design alternatives formulation and analysis phase, USACE analyzed the alternatives and developed more detailed designs. After a brief Study pause, the Study is back up and running with full funding and full resources. Research results and refined alternatives will be presented at the public meeting on February 15, 2025. The Study includes developing and analyzing design alternatives; evaluating economic and environmental impacts; and encouraging community input to address benefits, risks, and concerns. The City is committed to delivering a robust public engagement process to ensure that the input and ideas of the diverse Homer community are considered and reflected in the design alternatives.

###

Individual Email Invitations

From: Jenny Carroll
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 11:29 AM
To: 'pnormanvc@hotmail.com' <pnormanvc@hotmail.com>
Cc: 'francis907@hotmail.com' <francis907@hotmail.com>
Subject: Invitation to Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Public Meeting-March 15

Dear First Chief Norman,

On behalf of the City of Homer, I am reaching out to invite you, members of Port Graham Tribal Council and interested community members to a public meeting on the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation.

Since 2023, the City of Homer has been working with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on a feasibility study to help determine whether it is technically feasible and financially viable to expand the Homer Harbor, with the objectives to:

- Relieve transportation congestion
- Improve safety and efficiency within the harbor(s)
- Reduce potential for environmental impacts within the harbor(s)
- Enhance navigational safety and regional connectivity

The USACE evaluated 13 initial design concepts identified at a community design charrette in May 2023 and then narrowed these concepts to 5 preliminary alternatives in September 2023. As part of the Study's design alternatives formulation and analysis phase, USACE analyzed the alternatives and began studying existing conditions. Research results and refined alternatives will be presented at the public meeting on February 15, 2025.

The Study includes developing and analyzing design alternatives; evaluating economic and environmental impacts; and encouraging community input to address benefits, risks, and concerns. The City is committed to delivering a robust public engagement process to ensure that the input and ideas of the Homer community as well as diverse users of Homer's Harbor are considered and reflected in the design alternatives. We hope you can attend.

The meeting will be in person only on March 15, 2025 from 10 am to noon at Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 201. Materials will be provided online afterward, though, for anyone unable to attend. For more information, please visit www.homerharborexpansion.com. If you have any questions, please reach out.

Thank you,

ATTACHMENT D

Meeting Results

Welcome!

Please Sign In!	How did you hear about us?	Homer Harbor Expansion Study Public Meeting #3: Study Update | March 15, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.		
Name First, Last (Please print)	Facebook, Flyer, Newspaper, E-mail, Other?	Email	Add me to your email list? Yes (Y) Leave blank if no.	Mailing Address Street, City, State, Zip
[redacted]				
William Wimmenstedt	Radio	[redacted]		[redacted]
Kelly Matthews				
Melissa Jacobsen	other			
Rachel Lord				
Grant Peel	email			
S Dresdner	email			
Aaron Glidden	email			
LINDA+ERIC YOUNG	?			
ALAN JOSEPHUS	email			
Brandon + Andrea Cross	Flyer		Y	
Matt Clarke	Work			
Hal Shepherd	e-mail			

Page: ____ of ____

Welcome!

Please Sign In!	How did you hear about us?	Homer Harbor Expansion Study Public Meeting #3: Study Update | March 15, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.		
Name First, Last (Please print)	Facebook, Flyer, Newspaper, E-mail, Other?	Email	Add me to your email list? Yes (Y) Leave blank if no.	Mailing Address Street, City, State, Zip
[redacted]				
Chloe Pleznac		[redacted]	Y	[redacted]
Lauren Sutton	Email		Y	
Dan Roat	Mail		Y	
Jessica Shepherd	Email		No	
Ian Pitzman	email		Y	
FRANK QUINN	WIND		NO	
Karin Holser	mail			
Tina Seaton	e-mail		Y	
Doug VanPatten	mail		Y	

Page: ____ of ____

Welcome!

Please Sign In!	How did you hear about us?	Homer Harbor Expansion Study Public Meeting #3: Study Update | March 15, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.		
Name First, Last (Please print)	Facebook, Flyer, Newspaper, E-mail, Other?	Email	Add me to your email list? Yes (Y) Leave blank if no.	Mailing Address Street, City, State, Zip
[redacted]				
RAY E KRANICH SR	USPS	[redacted]		[redacted]
Dave Attwood	other			
Brad Anderson	E-Mail			
MICHAEL HAINES	E MAIL			
Kris Holderied	Email Colleagues, Friends			
Rob Moore	Flyer			
TROY AGREE	E MAIL			
James Dolma				
Alan Parks	Mailer		X Yes	

Page: _____ of _____

Welcome!

Please Sign In!	How did you hear about us?	Homer Harbor Expansion Study Public Meeting #3: Study Update | March 15, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.		
Name First, Last (Please print)	Facebook, Flyer, Newspaper, E-mail, Other?	Email	Add me to your email list? Yes (Y) Leave blank if no.	Mailing Address Street, City, State, Zip
Paul Seaton	pkseaton@gmail.com			
Ben Mycroft	email			
Nina Safra	email			
Sarah Lambe	email	[redacted]	Y	
David Webb	Flyer/Email		Y	
Amy Hamm	Kris Holderied		N	
Rosie Masoi	Flyer - Bagel		Y	
Donna Adelhold	all of above		Y	
Dave Schnepler	^		y	
Tom and Carol Rentfrew	all of above		Y	
KASEY ADELHOLD	Insta		y	
GORDY VERNON	gogo		Y	

Page: _____ of _____

Homer Harbor Expansion Project

Please share your comments.

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@homerharborexpansion.com

(1) Please address pertinent requirements for all alternatives

(2) Please address the cascading effects on AK ports/harbors from increasing Arctic traffic e.g. what gets pushed to Homer from full ports usage elsewhere.

(3) Please consider Emergency Response needs for a catastrophic event in South Central. DHSEM was counting on Homer Airport, but how its runway size is reduced, may need more ship resupply

Name: Amy Holman
Email: [redacted]
Address:
City: State: Zip:

Homer Harbor Expansion Project
c/o HDR, Inc.
582 E 36th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Homer Harbor Expansion Project

Please share your comments.

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@homerharborexpansion.com

Thank you for the engaging presentation!
Just one comment about the impact to the beginning of the water trail, the pull out behind Pier One. I'm sure there are alternatives but I'd like to make sure it is noted in the Uplands discussions.

And Coast Guard? We should make sure they are commenting on their ship docking plans.

Name: Kassy Ashbrold
Email:
Address:
City: State: Zip:

Homer Harbor Expansion Project
c/o HDR, Inc.
582 E 36th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Homer Harbor Expansion Project

Please share your comments.

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@homerharborexpansion.com

OSE – Other Social Effects

- Project needs to be fully accessible not just ADA compliant. It is less expensive in the long run to build it right then retrofit.

(1)
- get to the docks / boats * work with "think tanks" at colleges for innovation
  * explore shuttle boat system

(2)
- new bathrooms should include "family restroom" like the one Homer just built at the airport. This includes a 'changing table' to handle up to 300lbs which will comply with new regulations being introduced in the current legislative session in Juneau.

Homer has an ADA Compliance Board that may be a good resource for this issue.

ADA full accessibility benefits:
- Homer residents with disabilities, their families & caregivers
- Residents of villages adjacent to the Homer Harbor who have disabilities
- Disability tourism brings $58 billion to the US – Homer needs to be "friendly" to benefit financially from this demographic in the future

Please contact me for disability data on Alaska & disability tourism's

Name: Alana Sarem
Email: [redacted]
Address:
City: State: Zip:

Homer Harbor Expansion Project
c/o HDR, Inc.
582 E 36th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Homer Harbor Expansion Project

Please share your comments.

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@homerharborexpansion.com

Listen:

As you get older, you get more conservative. You don't take as many chances. Especially with money. As Winston Churchill put it - "He who is not liberal when he is young has no heart. And he who is not conservative when he is old, has no brain." So I'm going to take a different tack and point out why you shouldn't put a multi million dollar harbor at the end of a road (which washes out in big winter (and lately fall) westerlies, which sunk 4-6 feet in the '64 earthquake and needed to be rebuilt, which already has too many businesses dependent on it's traffic, whose expense along with harbor improvements will eliminate the small skiff locals with their fees. If the harbor in Kodiak (with Louise States & Gary Stevens holding key positions in the Alaska legislature can't get funds for repair of (existing Kodiak harbor) and Part of Alaska can't get billions of $ for repairs, why is Homer assuming there will be government funds for repairs? & the city of Homer can't afford

Name: Gordy Vernon
Email: [redacted]
Address:
City: [redacted] Zip: [redacted]

Homer Harbor Expansion Project
c/o HDR, Inc.
582 E 36th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503