

Town of Chebeague Island

192 North Road

Chebeague Island, ME 04017

Telephone (207) 846-3148

Fax (207) 846-6413

Your input is needed by January 22nd

Request for Dredging Study from Congress

The Town's Request from Congress:

The Town of Chebeague Island has requested assistance from our Congressional Delegation to include \$100,000 funding in the upcoming 2011 Federal Budget for a Section 107 Feasibility Study to dredge the area at the Stone Wharf.

This is the initial step in a process that could establish federal assistance with the high cost of maintenance dredging at the Stone Wharf, which is needed every ten years.

If we are successful, 80% of the first time dredging costs would be from Federal funding.

Subsequent maintenance dredging, if we are successful, would be 100% Federal funding.

How you may assist:

1. Our Senators Snowe and Collins, with Representative Pingree will need to hear from constituents in order to understand the Town of Chebeague's need for this dredging study.
2. ***Your input (letters, e-mail, fax) about funding this dredging study is needed by January 22nd.***
3. When Congress begins budget briefings, they need to understand the Town's critical need for dredging .

Why the Town needs to dredge this area:

1. Commercial Boat traffic cannot operate to the Stone Wharf if the water is too shallow to float the boats. This area has required dredging for commercial use for over 100 years.
2. The Channel to the Stone Wharf is part of an "essential transportation" link to the mainland as identified by the former MDOT Commissioner John Melrose.
3. Commercial use of the Stone Wharf is the location of the core economic activity of the Town, supporting the fishing vessels, the commercial ferry service, emergency rescue, commuting public, school children, public safety, medical, commercial shellfish, barging of freight, vehicles, trash hauling, commercial vessel repair, commercial fishing gear and commuting boats.
4. If any of these activities are stopped due to insufficient depth of the dredged channel, the economic sustainability of the Town would be negatively impacted.

The Process:

The dredging is needed about every ten (10) years and has previously been 100% at Town expense. This is an opportunity to begin the process of designating the dredging needs as a Federal Navigation Project, which, if successful, could significantly reduce the town's cost of dredging for the future.

1. The first step in this process is to obtain Federal funding for a feasibility study.
2. If there is a positive outcome to the feasibility study, the Town may then request designation as a Federal Navigation Project
3. If this dredging project is accepted as a Federal Navigation Project, then the process required for dredging would be accomplished by the Army Corps of Engineers.
4. The first dredging with Army Corps would be a shared cost:
Army Corps 80% / Town 20%
5. Future maintenance dredging would be Army Corps 100% / Town 0%.

Q. Will Federal funding for dredging cause any new restrictions?

Town of Chebeague Island

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December 30, 2009

Senator Olympia J. Snowe
495 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1902

Dear Senator Snowe,

The Town of Chebeague Island has requested assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a Section 107 feasibility study to dredge the area at the Stone Wharf on Chebeague Island. In order to proceed, funding for this feasibility study must be included in the upcoming FY 2011 Army Corps budget.

We request your support to assure that \$100,000 for this Section 107 feasibility study is included in the FY 2011 Army Corps budget.

The Stone Wharf is the only town-owned wharf, and is the primary location for emergency rescue operations, year round ferry and commercial fishing, barging and passenger operations. This is the access for the year-round passenger ferry which carries school children, commuters, year-round residents, medical, police, rescue and service personnel, among others. The ferry has been recognized by the Maine Department of Transportation as an essential transportation service for this community when they established permanent mainland parking for the island community in 2000, under the guidance of then Commissioner John Melrose. Historically throughout the twentieth century, the area has required dredging on average every ten years; because the area fills with sand and silt, creating increasing difficulty for the ferry to operate, even more challenging in winter when there is ice accumulation. The commercial fishing fleet is now limited to tidal access directly to the Stone Wharf for their operations.

Also requested in this initial appraisal is to include a study of potential navigation improvements to the area around the Great Chebeague Island Stone Wharf to increase the depth of water beside the Stone Wharf for the use by the Town's commercial fishing fleet and barging services. The fishing fleet is the core economic activity for the Town of Chebeague Island.

Timely maintenance dredging and appropriate navigation improvements are needed to restore and protect the economic and public safety needs of this community.

The Town of Chebeague Island is working with the Army Corps of Engineers office in Concord, MA. Our contact is Mr. Mark Habel, Chief of the Navigation Section. You may reach him at (978) 318-8871. Mr. Habel has considerable information about this project and can answer your questions.

Your help in providing funds for this project will be appreciated and will aid in sustaining the Town of Chebeague Island as a viable year round community.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Seaver
Town Administrator
SWS/cmr

Copy: Senator Collins
Representative Pingree

Town of Chebeague Island

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Telephone: (207) 846-3148 Fax: (207) 846-6413

December 30, 2009

Representative Chellie Pingree
1037 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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