



# 1. Homer Port & Harbor: New Large Vessel Moorage Facility

**Project Description & Benefit:** This project will construct a new large vessel moorage facility to the north of Homer's existing Port and Harbor. It will enhance port capabilities by:

- Accommodating large commercial vessels (fishing vessels, work boats, landing craft, tugs, etc.) outside the small boat harbor. Currently, large vessels are moored at System 4 and System 5 transient floats. Due to shortage of moorage space, large vessels are rafted two and three abreast constricting passage lanes, creating traffic congestion and overstressing the floats. The new facility will address overcrowding and associated navigational safety concerns and high maintenance costs in Homer's small boat harbor,
- Enabling Homer to moor an additional 40 to 60 large commercial vessels that potentially would use Homer Port & Harbor as a home port, but have been turned away due to their overall size, draft, or that the systems are working beyond capacity and we simply lack the space;
- Positioning Homer's Port and Harbor to meet the demands of emerging regional and national economic opportunities such as the Cook Inlet Oil & Gas industry, a possible LNG export plant in Nikiski, the opening of the Arctic for research, transportation and resource development and the US Coast Guard's long-term mooring needs. Currently, the USCGC *Hickory* moors at the Pioneer Dock which provides inadequate protection from northeasterly storm surges. The large vessel harbor will be built to provide protected and secure moorage suitable to accommodate USCG assets that call Homer's port home.

Centrally located in the Gulf of Alaska, Homer's Port & Harbor is the regions's only ice-free gateway to Cook Inlet, the port of refuge for large vessels transiting the Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, and Kennedy Entrance, and is the marine industrial and transportation system hub for central and Western Alaska. The new moorage facility will fill the unmet needs of large commercial vessels operating in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries.

**Plans & Progress:** The City, State of Alaska ADOT, and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) partnered on a port expansion feasibility study in 2004. At that time, preliminary results indicated the project's Benefit to Cost ratio would be non-competitive for Federal funding so the study was put on hold. Since then, conditions have changed to make the project more viable (such as availability of local and more competitively priced building materials and increased moorage demand). As a result, the City and ACOE initiated a joint Section 22 Planning Assistance to States Program Study (PAS) in September 2018. The PAS is scheduled to be done by Spring 2019 and will provide guidance on the next steps.

**Total Project Cost:** \$124,233,000

**Design and Permitting:** \$10,258,000

Breakwater Construction

and Dredging: \$90,275,000

Inner Harbor Improvements: \$23,700,000

**FY2019 State Request: \$10,258,000**

(City of Homer 10% Match: \$1,025,800)



The large vessel port expansion adds a new basin with its own entrance adjacent to the existing Small Boat Harbor. It will relieve large vessel congestion in the small boat harbor and will provide secure moorage compatible with the USCG's assets .