

United States Army Corps of Engineers - Arctic Ports Study FY2013 Request: \$1,500,000
Reference No: 54074

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Pat Kemp
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-3900

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This capital request is to fund year two of the Arctic Ports Study in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The purpose of this study is to identify potential Arctic deepwater port sites (minimum of -35 feet) that would be a long-term vital asset to national security and to the State's economy.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$500,000						\$500,000
Gen Fund	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Total:	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$300,000 from Ch 5 FSSLA 2011 Sec 1 Pg 101 Ln 11 (was combined with the SDMI request).

Project Description/Justification:

One or more Arctic deepwater ports would provide new, northernmost bases for the United States Department of Defense and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to protect and patrol the State's arctic waters. In addition, construction of a deepwater port would enhance in-state job growth, support resource development and exploration, and operate as a new intermodal hub between marine and aviation transportation facilities. Additional funding to complete the study would be required in FY2014 and FY2015.

The Arctic coast is approximately 927 miles long or 1,492 kilometers, and a high priority for the State of Alaska and all federal agencies. It is in our interest to learn as much as we can about the region and its potential deepwater (-35 feet or greater) port sites by working with the Army Corps of Engineers conducting a combination of research and mapping in order to develop a list of potential port sites on the State's arctic coastline. An arctic port in Alaska would serve as a major infrastructure asset as the State, nation, and world continue to evolve their use of Arctic resources. In the short term, this would serve as the northernmost port for the USCG (USCG icebreakers and other vessels require a minimum of -35 feet), the US Navy (USN), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in order for them to protect and patrol this region, and to develop a greater understanding of the factors involved in the potential economic development of the region. In the long

term, potential arctic ports could be expanded upon to allow for greater utilization to the state. It could help further diversify the state's economy in many ways. Including:

- The possibility of an arctic port becoming a direct shipping point for resources developed in the western and northern regions of Alaska.
- A major strategic American commercial and military port along the Arctic Coast as vessel traffic increases.
- A major infrastructure asset to any future potential endeavors to produce oil and gas from deepwater reserves in the Arctic Ocean.

Vital information that could potentially be gathered through studies in collaboration with the USACE includes, but is not limited to: depth of water, size and number of vessels, security requirements, hydrographic surveys, ice thickness and movement, operational needs, maintenance requirements, social, economic, and environmental impacts, potential arctic infrastructure development, coastal erosion, storm surge analysis, tsunami inundation analysis, sea rise, disaster preparedness, mitigation and recovery, climate change research, and an understanding of the capabilities of other arctic nations.

This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods