



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Charleston District

5 March 2026

Project Fact Sheet
Charleston Upper Harbor Study, SC
Charleston County, SC
P2#: 518423

Congressional District: Nancy Mace (SC-01)

Appropriation: Investigations

Phase: Feasibility

Business Line: Navigation (NAV)

AUTHORITY

Section 1201(b)(34) of Water Resource Development Act of 2024 (P.L. 118-272)

LOCATION

Charleston Harbor is located about midway along South Carolina's Atlantic coastline and supports a vital mission in the defense of our nation as one of the nation's 17 strategic ports for national defense.

DESCRIPTION

In 2020, Charleston Harbor handled 1.8 million containers, ranking South Carolina's ports eighth in the nation for container traffic. Leading global companies—like BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, Honda, Samsung, and GE—regularly use the harbor's terminals. Beyond shipping, the port is a major economic driver, supporting 260,000 jobs and generating \$87 billion in economic activity across the state each year.

The Upper Harbor Study will investigate the feasibility of deepening the approximately 6-mile upper reach of Charleston Harbor serving the North Charleston Terminal, which is currently at -48 feet, with the remainder of the harbor at -52 feet. This investigation is timely and critical due to significant physical and economic changes that have occurred since completion of the "Post 45" Feasibility Report / Environmental Impact Statement.

STATUS

As of March 2026 - The study received \$500,000 in FY26 appropriations to initiate the study. Once funding is allocated to Charleston District, a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement will be executed, and the study will commence.

SPONSOR

South Carolina Ports Authority

PROJECT MANAGER

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