National Security: Strategically located near the Bering Strait and Arctic Ocean, Nome’s Deep Draft Port will enable the United States to respond to the increasing foreign presence in the Arctic, including accelerated Russian development of the Northern Sea Route.

Life Safety: Bering Strait traffic has nearly doubled since 2009. The Deep Draft Port will allow the Coast Guard to maintain a material presence and fulfill its mission of protecting the public, environment, and national economic interests.

Environmental Protection: An expanded port is needed to accommodate vessels in distress, minimize impacts to the environment, and provide protected moorage for vessels seeking repair and services.

Economic Viability: The port will facilitate economic development and ensure that vital food, fuel, and supplies reach residents of America’s and Alaska’s Arctic and sub-Arctic in a cost-effective way.

Sustaining Culture: Alaska Natives comprise half of Nome’s 3,800 residents, and about 75 percent of residents in nearby communities. Stabilizing the cost of living, while maintaining environmental standards, will help to ensure that traditional food gathering and other culturally important activities continue.

Sources: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Port of Nome Strategic Plan (McDowell Group, 2016); U.S. Census Bureau.
Nome: A Regional Hub

Nome has served as a critical hub for western Alaska and the Arctic for more than a century.

- Nome was established in 1901 by gold seekers; mining remains an important aspect of the economy today.
- Nome offers a level-four trauma center, fire department, telecommunications, daily jet service, and a 230-mile road system.
- Nome’s aviation sector supported 64 domestic and international locations in 2014.

Port Activity

- The port supports 450 seafood harvesters and processors and is home to Norton Sound Seafood Products. Homeported tender vessels shown to the left.
- Groceries, construction supplies, gravel, and other goods are distributed to 60 communities from Platinum to Barrow – a distance of more than 1,000 miles.
- Port traffic increased from 160 vessels in 2000 to 635 in 2015. Additionally, a growing number of commercial and private vessels transit the nearby Bering Strait.
- The port handles an average of 53,000 tons of rock, sand, and gravel; 34,000 tons of freight; and 13.1 million gallons of refined products annually.
- In 2016, Nome will host the 820-foot Crystal Serenity, with 1,700 passengers and crew, illustrating a growing interest in Arctic cruising. Additionally, several smaller cruise ships regularly sail between Nome, Greenland, Russia, Norway, and other global destinations.