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MISSION: The mission of the Great Lakes Fishery Trust is to provide funding to enhance, protect and rehabilitate the Great Lakes fishery. The trust will manage its resources to compensate for the lost use and enjoyment of the Lake Michigan fishery resulting from the operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant.

Photos by: Tom Huggler OUTDOOR IMAGES

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The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT or trust) is a private charitable foundation. Since its creation in April of 1996, it has awarded nearly \$15 million in grants for 59 projects as mitigation for fish losses that occur at the Ludington Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility jointly owned by Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison. As part of the court settlement that created the GLFT, the utilities provided five million dollars and 10,600 acres of land for fish losses that occurred prior to the settlement to capitalize the trust. In addition, the utilities provide compensation for continuing fish losses of approximately two and a half million dollars each year. The GLFT invests the compensation payments and proceeds from land sales to support the operation of the trust and its grant programs.



Grant funds are awarded for projects in five categories:

- Education relating to the Great Lakes fishery, targeting information to help build stewardship for a sustainable fishery
- Protection and restoration of Great Lakes fishery habitat, including Great Lakes tributaries
- Research on the Great Lakes fishery, with special emphasis on enhancing the management of the fishery and rehabilitating lake trout and lake sturgeon populations
- Fishing access development for shore based angling and tribal fishing access, including land acquisition and site enhancement
- Special projects that are consistent with the mission of the GLFT

Since 1996, the GLFT has funded twenty fishing access projects, six education projects, twenty-two fishery research projects, five projects related to restoration of lake sturgeon, one habitat restoration/protection project, and five projects in the Muskegon River watershed.



The trust has used a variety of approaches to solicit proposals for funding. Request for pre-proposals are sent to potentially interested parties around the Great Lakes via mail, email, and web-based listservs. On-line applications will be available in the near future. In addition to these conventional proposal solicitation methods, the GLFT continues to explore new and innovative ways to encourage creative and collaborative projects. The following approaches have been used in the past:

- Under guidance from its Scientific Advisory Team, the trust has extended fisheries research thematic areas that focus on recruitment and fish health. While new research themes are under consideration, the two original focus areas were purposefully adopted for a specified period of time to encourage capacity building at research institutions.
- The application process for the access category is now open year-long with two granting dates.
- The GLFT provided support for seminars where researchers and fisheries

managers developed recommendations on priority research topics. The trust used the selected topics to solicit grant proposals. A sturgeon restoration conference sponsored by the trust identified projects for funding in 2000.

- An assessment of fisheries education needs is underway and will be used to develop a strategic plan to guide future grantmaking in this category. Targeted, education grant solicitations are planned for the end of 2001.
- The trust has also teamed with other grant makers to encourage a holistic, ecological approach to the management of Great Lakes tributary watersheds through its *River Initiative*.
- Fishery management and research priorities identified under the auspices of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission have provided guidance for grant programs of the trust.
- The GLFT has also funded several special projects brought to the board's attention that were unique opportunities to contribute to enhancement of the Great Lakes fisheries.

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The emphasis during the first four years of the GLFT was on the mechanics of establishing the trust, including contracting for staff services; establishing operating procedures; initial grant solicitation, selection, and management; and investment planning. In 1999, the GLFT developed an updated strategic plan that established goals for each grant category, specific objectives, action steps, and benchmarks for measuring progress. The following three special programs were initiated in 2000 to reflect the updated priorities of the trust.



Muskegon River Watershed Initiative

The GLFT proposed in its updated strategy to select a large Michigan river system tributary to Lake Michigan for intensive habitat restoration and protection. The purpose of the *River Initiative* is to create a model approach to integrated ecosystem fishery-habitat management. The GLFT and its Scientific Advisory Team (SAT) assessed the availability of information and the opportunities to make significant improvements in four major watersheds tributary to Lake Michigan. The Muskegon River watershed was selected for a special study to determine the capacity of existing organizations within the watershed to implement such a model program. The study confirmed that there was indeed substantial local interest, organizational structure, and capacity to undertake this model river initiative in the Muskegon River watershed.

The GLFT was joined in its *River Initiative* by the Wege Foundation, which sponsored a weeklong conference on the Muskegon River watershed. The conference brought together university researchers from throughout the state and local stakeholders to identify key information and research needs. Other foundations have joined the GLFT and the Wege Foundation in evaluating and funding proposals that have emanated from this unique conference.

Several major projects were funded and got underway in 2001. The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, a local broad-based stakeholders group, has received joint funding from the trust and the Wege Foundation for staff to help guide the research efforts and develop specific projects that reflect the research findings on how best to enhance and protect the river ecosystem. [Click here](#) for more information on the Muskegon River Watershed Initiative and its grants.

Lake Sturgeon Research Funding

In June of 2000, the GLFT sponsored a workshop on lake sturgeon restoration and management in the Great Lakes. Researchers from across the country attended and helped identify research and information gaps. The results of the workshop helped define the GLFT's funding priorities for lake sturgeon. The priorities for restoration in the Lake Michigan basin included: literature review and other research to document historical lake sturgeon distribution; inventory of barriers that currently limit the movement of sturgeon in important river systems; and field investigations to document current distribution and abundance. Throughout the Great Lakes basin, the lake sturgeon restoration priorities include development of innovative survey methods to provide quick, standardized status assessments; genetic research to help identify potential donor stocks for reintroductions; and riverine habitat analysis to establish the requirements and utilization by larvae, juveniles, and spawning adults. Targeted requests for proposals for lake sturgeon restoration projects, consistent with the priorities established at the workshop, were distributed by the GLFT in late 2000. Several sturgeon restoration projects were funded and underway in 2001. [Click here](#) for more information on the Lake Sturgeon Research and Rehabilitation grants.

Great Lakes Fisheries Education Assessment

The updated GLFT Strategic Plan recognized the need to thoroughly assess the educational materials available and current gaps in information and/or delivery systems for informing the public about the Great Lakes fishery. In 2000, the GLFT issued a directed grant request for proposals to complete such an assessment and provide assistance in the development of a strategic education grant funding plan. The GLFT funded a joint effort through the University of Michigan and Ohio State University. This effort was completed in August of 2001. [Click here](#) for more information about the assessment or [here to view the document](#). The GLFT intends to solicit education proposals to implement the recommendations of the strategic education plan developed as a part of the assessment.

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ACCESS

Big Sable River Access Improvements at Ludington State Park - Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Bureau - \$52,500

This one-year grant provides funding for engineering/design costs for substantial work to improve angler access (barrier free, parking, new access) in the Ludington State Park.

Dutcher's McKay Bay Access Site Improvement Project - Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority - \$190,233

This one-year project enhances Tribal and Non-Tribal fishing opportunities in northern Lake Huron. This project will be available to recreational and commercial fishing vessel usage at McKay Bay.

Project Fish! - Michigan State University - \$46,680

Few efforts are more important to the future of the Great Lakes than encouraging our youth to be good stewards of the Great Lakes. This project is an extension of funding to develop curriculum materials and train teachers and mentors to teach children and adults about the Great Lakes fishery. The curriculum uses hands-on activities such as building gear and tackle and learning fishing techniques to engage students in learning about the elements required to sustain aquatic ecosystems.

Sturgeon Rehabilitation Research

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Status Assessment of Remnant Lake Sturgeon Stocks in the Lake Michigan Basin - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - \$359,205

Biologists and researchers from several universities and state and federal resource agencies are coordinating efforts to study the status of remnant lake sturgeon stocks throughout Lake Michigan for three years. Historically, sturgeon were abundant in Lake Michigan and particularly in Green Bay, but populations declined rapidly in the late 1800s due to habitat destruction, degraded water quality, and overfishing. Recently, comprehensive plans to rehabilitate this species have been developed, requiring more complete knowledge of their current distribution, abundance, and reproduction throughout the lake.

Characterization of Early Life History Stages of Lake Sturgeon in the Peshtigo River and Green Bay - Purdue University - \$132,000

This three-year project will focus on the distribution, movement patterns, and



requirements of early life stages of lake sturgeon in relation to availability and utilization of physical, chemical, and biological resources in the lower Peshtigo River, Wisconsin, and inner waters of Green Bay, Lake Michigan.

Development of a Management Plan for Lake Sturgeon Within the Great lakes Basin Based on Population Genetic Structure - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - \$295,400

This three-year project will complete Phases I and II of a three-phase project to develop genetics-based management recommendations for lake sturgeon within the Great Lakes. During the course of this research the following objectives will be met (1) standardize microsatellite and mtDNA genetic markers among all geneticists studying lake sturgeon, (2) sample key populations that are not currently targeted by any management agencies, and (3) analyze population genetic data from these sampled populations.

Annual Lake Sturgeon Coordination Meetings, with Technical Session on Emerging Issues or Information Gaps - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - \$25,500

This project will facilitate communication and coordination between biologists, managers, and researchers working toward lake sturgeon rehabilitation in the Great Lakes through 3 annual meetings beginning in 2002. This includes a two-day meeting, one day to share research and management activities, confirm or identify priority research needs, and enhance collaboration. The second day will focus on a technical issue or information gap.

Rapid assessment of Lake Sturgeon spawning stocks using instream hydroacoustic technology - Michigan Technological University - \$214,318

Throughout the Great Lakes Basin, remnant stocks of lake sturgeon exist at low abundance. Traditional fish sampling and assessment methods are marginally effective for these populations and can lead to fish mortality. Lake sturgeon congregate each spring when they spawn in large rivers. During this two-year project, non-lethal hydroacoustic technology, successfully used to count salmon in Pacific Northwest river systems, will be used to evaluate the lake sturgeon population in the Sturgeon River, Michigan.



GENERAL RESEARCH

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An evaluation of bioenergetics modeling for lake whitefish in Lake Michigan - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - \$201,114

This three-year project will determine the age-specific diet and energy density of lake whitefish on a seasonal basis, as well as the seasonal energy density of major food types of lake whitefish.

Modeling the influence of lake circulation patterns, upwelling events, and turbulence on fish recruitment variability in Lake Michigan - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - \$349,797

This project will quantify the relative effects of lake physics (meso-scale circulation features, small-scale turbulence, turbidity, water temperature) on distributions, survival, feeding, growth, and potential recruitment of young alewife and yellow perch over three years.



Muskegon River Watershed Initiative Projects

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A Collaborative Approach to Understanding the Dynamics of the Muskegon Watershed: A Comprehensive Model, Risk Assessment, and Tools for Use in Management -

University of Michigan - \$1,193,381 over 3 years

This three-year project will build on existing data, models, and management tools, to develop a system-wide model that can be used in ecological risk assessments for the Muskegon River Watershed.

An Ecological Assessment of the Muskegon River Watershed to Solve and Prevent Environmental Problem - Michigan State University - \$1,554,553 over 3 years

By integrating the hydrologic, geomorphic, ecologic, and social systems of the Muskegon River, this basin-wide analysis, will develop a process-based ecosystem model and identify potential stressors to the ecosystem over its three-year life.

Building Capacity of the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly - Muskegon River Watershed Assembly - \$162,975

This three-year project will help build the capacity of the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly.

Big Rapids Dam Removal Communications Project - City of Big Rapids - \$17,011.50

This one-year project will tell the story of the Big Rapids Dam Removal project with a PowerPoint CD presentation that can be given to any community, along with a companion booklet.

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SETTLEMENT ACCESS PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Medbery Park	City of Montague	\$101,885	10/10/00
Pentwater	Village of Pentwater	\$594,214	10/31/01
Ludington, South Pier	City of Ludington	\$80,000	6/29/00
Fruitland Public Access	Fruitland Township	\$150,932	7/1/00

1998 PILOT PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Sutton's Bay Landing Access Project	Pere Marquette Charter Township	\$209,375	5/16/01
Big South Branch Habitat Improvement Project	Pere Marquette Watershed Council	\$750,000	4/4/02
The Feasibility of Biocide Application in Controlling the Release on Nonindigenous Aquatic Species from Ballast Water	Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research	\$306,032	8/31/01
Project Fish!	Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife	\$210,620	10/11/00
Fish for All: The Legacy of Lake Michigan Fisheries Policy and Management	Western Michigan University and the Michigan Maritime Museum	\$198,720	5/19/01

Prototype Fishway for Lake Sturgeon	U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division	\$133,452	1/8/02
Investigating Solutions to Early Mortality Syndrome in Lake Michigan	U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division	\$452,000	8/1/01

1999 SPECIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Development of a Statewide Great Lakes Ecological Information System at State Fish Hatcheries	Michigan State University	\$2,994,696	6/1/02
White Lake Pier Extension	Army Corp of Engineers	\$153,883	1/6/00

1999 ACCESS PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Fishing Access Site Strategic Planning	Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority	\$24,771	6/27/00
Lake Betsie Fishing Pier	Village of Elberta	\$186,398	5/19/01
Angler Access Improvement	City of Ludington	\$220,000	6/29/00
Fishing Platform at the Rogers City Boat Harbor	City of Rogers City	\$150,000	7/19/01
Detroit River Fishing Access Feasibility Study	National Wildlife Federation	\$23,640	6/28/00

1999 RESEARCH PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Evaluation of Current Strategies to Recolonize Lake Trout Spawning Reefs in Northern Michigan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$157,360	9/23/02

Molecular Genetic Assessment of Stocking Success and Sources of Natural Lake Trout Recruitment	Michigan State University	\$215,975	11/17/01
Salmonid Spawning Stock Abundance, Recruitment, and Exploitation in the Muskegon River	Michigan State University	\$306,047	7/4/03
Mechanisms Affecting Recruitment of Yellow Perch in Lake Michigan	Illinois Natural History Survey	\$360,000	5/31/03
Effects of Diporeia Decline on Fish Diet, Growth, and Food Web Dynamics in Southeast Lake Michigan	University of Michigan	\$276,868	6/6/03
Studies on the Detection, Transmission, and Development of Renibacterium Salmoninarum Infections in Great Lakes Salmonid Fishes	U.S. Department of the Interior Western Fisheries Research Center	\$599,164	10/13/02
Lake Sturgeon Genetics Standardization Workshop	U.S. Department of the Interior Lower Great Lakes Fishery Research Office	\$6,800	8/24/00
Fourth International Symposium on Sturgeon	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	\$25,000	7/6/02

2000 EDUCATION PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Michigan Out-of-Doors Public Television Show	Michigan United Conservation Club	\$30,000	8/31/02
Great Lakes Fisheries Education Assessment and Summary of Needs	University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment	\$79,107	6/1/01

Project Fish!	Michigan State University	\$46,680	1/30/02
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2000 RESEARCH PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Energy Dynamics of Lake Michigan Chinook Salmon	Michigan State University	\$265,426	10/2/03
Interactive Role of Transport and Foraging Success in the Determination of Growth Variability for Larval Yellow Perch in Southern Lake Michigan	North Carolina State University	\$104,340	10/24/02
Effects of Egg and Fry Predators on Lake Trout Recruitment in Lake Michigan	Environment Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans	\$346,400	10/24/03
Evaluation of Cartilage-Bone Biopsy and Polymerase Chain Reaction Procedures for Nonlethal Detection of Myxobolus cerebralis in Rainbow Trout from the Great Lakes region	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$22,232	9/26/01
Dynamics of Alewife Recruitment Variability in Lake Michigan	University of Michigan	\$358,456	10/30/03
Exotic Invertebrates, Food Web Disruption, and Lost Fish Production	Great Lakes Fishery Commission	\$12,000	xx/xx/xx
Investigations into the Causes of Thiamine Deficiency in Great Lakes Salmonids and the Effects of Low Thiamine on Swim-up Fry Behavior	U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division	\$465,000	8/1/04

2000 ACCESS PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Arcadia Barrier Free Children's Fishing Dock Enhancement Project	Arcadia Charter Township	\$14,880	7/24/01
Betsie Valley Trail-Fishing Bridge	Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council	\$75,000	5/31/01
Riverside Park Improvement	City of Detroit	\$545,000	6/20/02
Harbor Drive Angler Fishing Access	City of Menominee	\$172,000	5/1/02
Village of Suttons Bay Access Fishing Pier	Village of Suttons Bay	\$180,000	5/19/01
Montague Fishing Bridge	White Lake Area Sportfishing Association	\$100,000	7/28/02

2000 SPECIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Purchase of Hydro-Acoustic Sampling Gear	U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division	\$100,000	1/18/01
Big Rapids Dam Removal	City of Big Rapids	\$350,000	1/4/03

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As a part of the Ludington Pumped Storage Settlement Agreement, Consumers Energy transferred approximately 10,600 acres of property to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust as compensation for past damages to the fishery caused by the Ludington facility. The proceeds from the sale of the property are invested to generate income for the operation and grant programs of the trust. Of the remaining parcels of land still owned by the trust, purchase agreements and/or options for sale are completed.



Significant portions of the properties sold by the trust are now available for public use within the Huron Manistee National Forest along the Manistee and AuSable rivers. When property adjacent to watercourses was sold to private entities, the trust retained protective conservation easements.

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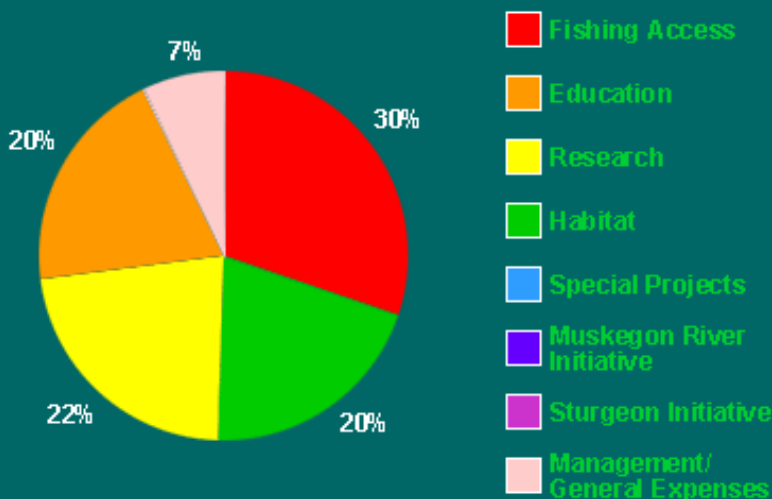
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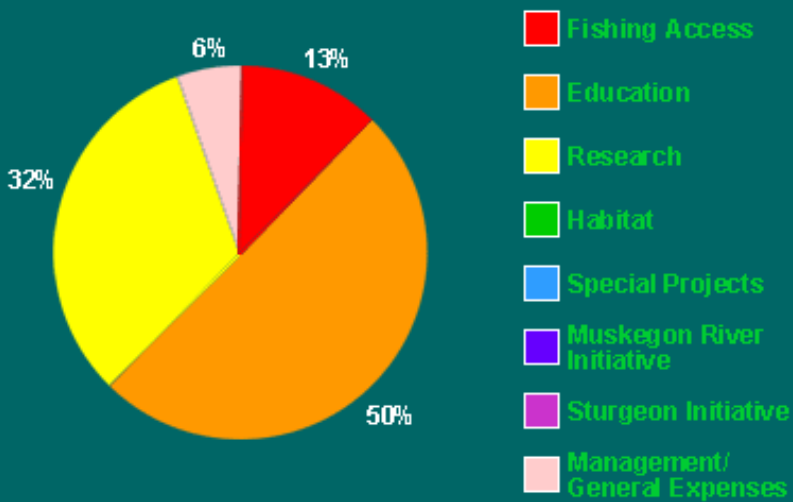
Category	1998	1999	2000	2001	Since 1998
Fishing Access	\$1,136,406	\$758,692	\$1,086,880	\$457,733	\$3,439,711
Education	\$409,340	\$2,994,696	\$155,787	\$0	\$3,559,823
Research	\$849,484	\$1,947,212	\$1,573,854	\$550,911	\$4,921,461
Habitat	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750,000
Special Projects	\$0	\$0	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000
Muskegon River Initiative	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$766,581	\$766,581
Sturgeon Initiative	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,026,423	\$1,026,423
Management/General Expenses*	\$263,777	\$339,376	\$352,577	\$353,361	\$1,309,091
TOTAL	\$3,145,230	\$5,700,600	\$3,266,521	\$2,801,648	\$14,913,999

* all non-grant expenditures including management expenses, insurance, taxes, publications, professional services, etc.

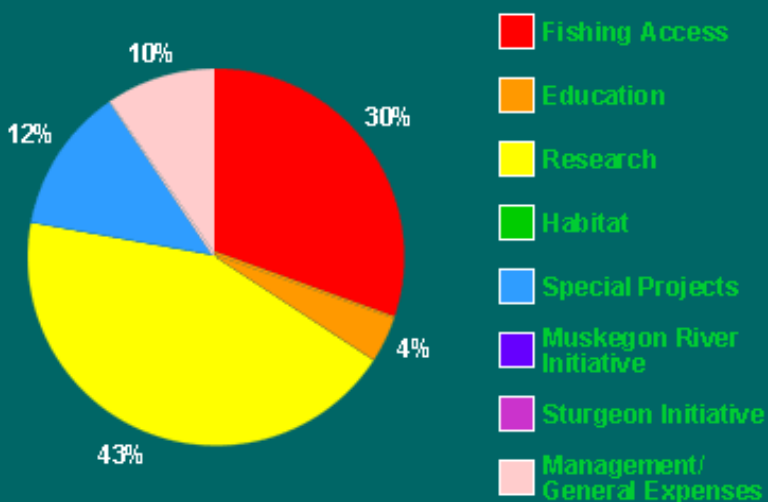
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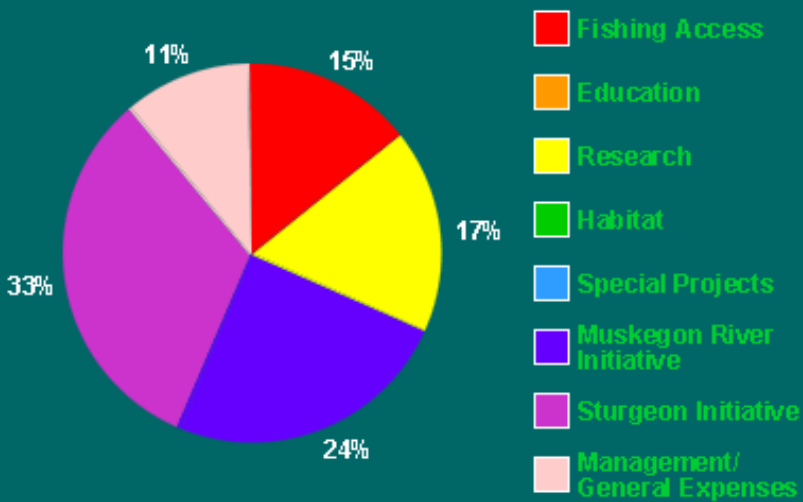
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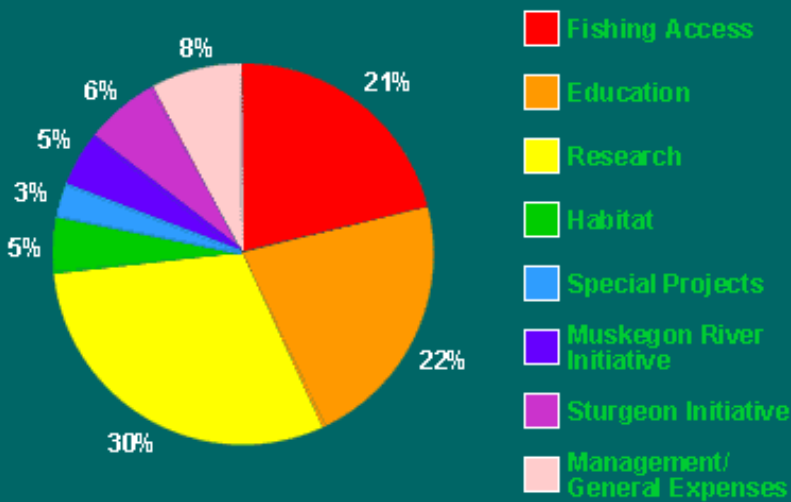
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Since 1998



2000 & 2001 Financial Data Financial Data Prepared by Plante & Moran, LLC

Assets	12/31/2001	12/31/2000
Cash	\$730	\$486
Mortality compensation receivable	\$2,822,678	\$2,216,579
Investments	\$26,852,023	\$26,835,342
Land	\$910,716	\$947,571
Total Assets	\$27,778,469	\$29,999,981

Liabilities	12/31/2001	12/31/2000
Accounts Payable	\$29,040	\$29,040
Grants Payable	\$9,489,590	\$6,658,931
Total Liabilities	\$9,521,158	\$6,687,971

Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$18,257,311	\$21,095,428
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$27,778,469	\$27,783,399

Full copy of the financial audit is available upon request.

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Jennifer M. Granholm, Michigan Attorney General, represented by **James Riley**, Assistant Attorney General

James Goodheart, Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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