



## Special Project Funding Criteria

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The GLFT seeks proposals that fit within its 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.**

The settlement creating the Trust authorizes the following uses of Trust grant funds with *preferential treatment given to projects that benefit the Lake Michigan fishery*:

- Fishing access development for shore-based angling and tribal fishing access, including land acquisition and site enhancement
- Education relating to the Great Lakes fishery
- Research on the Great Lakes fishery, with special emphasis on lake sturgeon
- Fishery habitat protection and restoration, with special emphasis on the Muskegon River

When considering funding for a special project, the GLFT will determine whether the proposal

- conforms with the purposes of the Trust (see above), and
- is outside the scope of activities covered in an existing or pending request for proposal (RFP) process (or meets the criteria for exemption to the general policy), and/or
- is consistent with any policy adopted by the board for the specific activities proposed (e.g., land acquisition and dam management).

If the proposed special project meets the criteria for the three essential elements listed above, the board will consider the following criteria when determining whether or not to fund the project and for what amount:

- Comments on the proposal provided by the Scientific Advisory Team (SAT)
- Available grant dollars, and the potential impact of funding the project at the level requested on the short-range and long-range grant program activities of the Trust
- Potential negative impacts of not funding the proposal or not funding it at the level requested
- Availability of alternative funding sources to the applicant for all or a portion of the funds requested
- Contribution commitments from other organizations to help implement the proposal

- Level of support from stakeholders targeted to benefit from the proposed project
- Precedents involved in providing funds for the proposed activity based upon past and future grant activities of the Trust
- Value of the proposed activity with respect to achieving GLFT strategic plan priorities and preferred outcomes
- Technical and/or scientific foundation for the proposal
- Likelihood that the project can achieve its objectives
- Methods proposed to evaluate results
- Experience, expertise, and past performance of the applicant
- Thoroughness of the proposal to allow the board to evaluate the project
- Demonstration that any relationships with existing projects are complementary
- Ability of the applicant to comply with general grant requirements for all organizations funded by the Trust

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