



POLICY ON FUNDING FISH PASSAGE AND OTHER DAM MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Program Objectives

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust is interested in supporting select projects in Michigan that address the adverse environmental effects of dams and barriers on rivers tributary to the Great Lakes. This guidance describes the basis for Trust consideration of grant requests to provide fish passage around barriers or to modify or remove barriers to restore fish passage, and enhance quality or quantity of riverine fisheries habitat.

Funding Criteria

1. The Trust will only consider project sites located in Michigan. GLFT grants will generally not exceed 50 percent of the total project cost for projects sponsored by Tribal, State or local government or by a non-profit organization.
2. The Trust will consider any project located on a watershed designated by the Trust as a river initiative site (currently only the Muskegon River watershed has been designated).
3. The Trust will also consider projects on other rivers where there is a watershed plan, river assessment and accompanying management plan, or comparable management plan in place. The proposed project
 - must be consistent with the plan's fisheries, habitat, and water quality management objectives
 - is subject to review for consistency with sea lamprey control plans and policies of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission
 - must demonstrate benefit to:
 - Great Lakes fisheries
 - Great Lakes fisheries habitat including physical and chemical improvements such as dissolved oxygen or temperature conditions associated with barrier modification or removal
4. The Trust will consider projects that facilitate rehabilitation of a Great Lakes fish species such as lake sturgeon, that have been targeted by the Trust for rehabilitation.
5. Project must have the express written support of the property owner(s) or operator(s) of dam structures or barriers. Local community support for the project is also preferred.

Evaluation Criteria

The level of GLFT funding participation will be based on the extent to which the project satisfies the following evaluation criteria.

- Michigan projects in any one of the Great Lakes basins may be considered, however the level of grant support may be greater for projects that benefit the Lake Michigan basin.
- The Trust prefers to support projects that offer an increase in long-term, sustainable, natural reproduction for species now supported by hatchery production.
- Project benefits should be targeted toward salmonids and other non-salmonid predator game species. Projects that offer secondary benefits, for example improved sea lamprey management or protection of State listed threatened or endangered species, may be supported at a greater funding level.

Eligibility

Construction costs and/or engineering fees are eligible for grant funding. If the applicant prefers, a greater portion of a GLFT grant award may be used to cover a larger portion of the engineering services, in lieu of construction costs.

Project components that provide public access for fishing or public information and education regarding stream restoration may also be considered for grant funding.

Projects supported by the GLFT will be expected to provide assessment of project success, pursuant to the Trust's grant application guidelines.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on May 7, 2002