



Policy on Tribal and Recreational Fishing Access Grants

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) disburses grants for projects that improve or create shore-based recreational and tribal fishing access to the Great Lakes fisheries. These projects must involve constructing or enhancing an actual point of fishing access, such as installing a fishing boardwalk or improving a pier. Projects may also incorporate a number of additional amenities. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to grant applicants on eligible and ineligible amenities beyond the construction or enhancement of a fishing access structure.

ELIGIBLE FISHING AMENITIES

For Facilities Primarily Used by Recreational and Tribal Anglers

For facilities that will be/are primarily used by recreational and tribal anglers, amenities that are directly related to fishing and the accommodation of recreational and tribal anglers are eligible for full funding.¹ These amenities must be located near the actual point of access that the applicant is applying to create or enhance and be determined necessary to utilize that point of access. Examples of this type of eligible amenity include:

- Bank stabilization material
- Benches
- Boat launch facilities to accommodate tribal fishing
- Constructed fish habitat
- Construction-related restorative landscaping
- Educational signage
- Lighting
- Parking areas necessary to access the structure(s)
- Railings
- Restrooms near the structure
- Shelters
- Walkways

¹ Projects with financial support from other sources are encouraged. Although matching funds are not required, proposals that include local funding and promote community participation in the use of fishery resources will be favored.

For Facilities Jointly Used by Anglers and Non-Anglers

The GLFT recognizes that not all proposed facilities will be enjoyed solely by anglers. For facilities that will/may be enjoyed by other expected non-angling users, the GLFT will provide funds based on estimated use by anglers versus non-anglers. For example, if 50 percent of a proposed facility's visitors are expected to be anglers, the GLFT may fund up to 50 percent of the project cost.

INELIGIBLE FISHING AMENITIES

Amenities that are not directly related to fishing and the accommodation of anglers are not eligible for funding. Examples include the following:

- Playground equipment
- Aesthetic landscape improvements
- Boat launches to accommodate recreational fishing²
- Amphitheaters

FISH CLEANING STATIONS

Because of the maintenance and nuisance issues associated with fish cleaning stations, the GLFT will only partially fund this amenity if the applicant can demonstrate

- A design for the fish cleaning station that is proven to effectively dispose of waste;
- Proof via agreements with and/or letters from local health departments and/or waste management facilities that the waste will be disposed of in a statutorily compliant and satisfactory manner;
- A plan for continued maintenance of the facility, including the funding to support such maintenance;
- A plan for preventing potential nuisance issues (e.g., odor, sight, etc.); and
- Financial support from the community (at least 50 percent of the project cost must be funded by other funding sources).

FEASIBILITY, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN ONLY STUDIES

Occasionally, feasibility, engineering, and design studies are a necessary precursor to developing an accurate cost estimate for construction of a shore-based fishing access site. To that end, the GLFT may provide funding to conduct engineering, design, and feasibility studies before considering a full construction proposal if the applicant can demonstrate the following:

- Financial support from the community: Priority will be given to projects for which matching funds are provided by the host community or agency (e.g., the landowner) that would own and/or manage the site.
- Community support: Applicants must clearly demonstrate community support for the proposed project. Priority will be given to projects that have been identified as a

² Improvements to accommodate small boat access at shore fishing sites may be eligible only if it can be demonstrated that other funding sources have been exhausted.

community priority through a planning process such as a Five-Year Recreation Plan or a Community Master Plan. Applicants must provide a resolution from the appropriate governing body (e.g. a township board) indicating support for the project. If the applicant is a state or federal agency, a letter of support from management must be provided.

- Realistic construction budget and commitment to proceed: Feasibility studies and the development of engineering and design documents should result in design approaches that are financially achievable for the host community. Priority will be given to projects for which the applicant is willing to pledge local dollars toward construction of the fishing access site.

Approved by the GLFT Board of Trustees on May 1, 2007, revised May 10, 2016