



## Funding Criteria for Pre-Proposals

### *Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Fish Populations*



#### PROJECT SIZE

There are no cost or time limitations on grant requests. However, projects will be evaluated on the cost versus the expected benefits as well as upon the reasonableness of the time requested to complete the project.

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Proposals are encouraged from educational, governmental, tribal, and nonprofit institutions with a 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS. Canadian public and nonprofit organizations may also be eligible but should contact GLFT staff prior to submitting a proposal.

#### EVALUATION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

Pre-proposals will be evaluated on the degree to which they meet the following eight criteria:

- **Project applicants must be a public entity, nonprofit organization, or private educational institution**  
Organizations receiving funds and managing a project must demonstrate evidence of current 501(c)(3) tax status with the IRS.
- **Projects must not duplicate ongoing activities in the region or activities funded by alternative sources**  
Projects must represent new efforts not currently under way in the Great Lakes region.
- **Projects must target RFP priorities and have measurable outcomes**  
Project proposals must address research priorities outlined in the request for proposals and contain measurable objectives and processes for measuring success.
- **Projects must have direct fisheries management implications**  
The GLFT funds basic research only when there is a clear consensus that such efforts are essential to address a critical issue facing fishery managers.

■ **Projects must have scientific merit**

The GLFT believes strongly in the importance of scientific merit, as determined through an external peer review process and by an independent peer-review panel, when selecting projects for funding.

■ **Projects must have benefits directed primarily to the Great Lakes**

Projects must provide benefits to the Great Lakes fishery. Projects with benefits (i.e., findings, protocols, new capacity) directed primarily to the Lake Michigan fishery are of higher priority than projects without significant benefit to the Lake Michigan fishery.

■ **Project applicants must have demonstrated an ability to undertake such projects**

Project applicants must be able to demonstrate prior experience in successfully managing similar grants or projects.

■ **Projects must be feasible and cost-effective**

Costs should be aligned with potential benefits, and the proposed project timeline realistic given the scope of proposed work.

In addition, pre-proposals that exhibit the following four attributes will be reviewed more favorably than those lacking these qualities:

■ **Highly visible results**

Dissemination of results to resource managers and other appropriate forums or groups should be incorporated into the project proposal. At a minimum, successful applicants will be required to seek the opportunity to present their findings to a relevant audience connected to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. An additional and broader vision for dissemination of results is encouraged.

■ **Management support**

Projects should have demonstrated support from representatives of the management community, and/or be responsive to published priorities of management agencies. Expressions of broader support (i.e., from organizations interested in Great Lakes fisheries, from the scientific community) are pertinent as well.

■ **Collaborative approach**

Efforts that involve collaboration between and among researchers and management agencies are preferred.

■ **Facilitation of future uses of GLFT funds**

Projects should provide information or results that will help guide future research activities of the GLFT.