



Tribal and Recreational Fishing Access Grant Guidelines



Mission

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.

Strategic Objective

The GLFT is seeking proposals that improve or create new **tribal and/or shore-based recreational access to fish for Great Lakes species.**

Guiding Principles

Decisions for funding from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust will be guided by its vision, mission, and mandate. Funding proposals will also be evaluated for compatibility with the following principles. Note that the proposed project does not need to be compatible with *all* of the following principles, but the more principles met, the more likely the project will be funded:

- Recreational fishing access projects must be located on the Great Lakes or lower portions of major tributaries. Priority will be given to shore-based recreational fishing access enhancement projects that are located on Lake Michigan or lower portions of major tributaries from New Buffalo to Mackinaw City.
- Tribal fishing access projects must be located on northern Lake Michigan and northern Lake Huron, consistent with the provisions of the 2000 consent decree.
- Projects located in areas where there is an unmet need for fishing access (i.e., there is no viable access alternative nearby) will be given higher priority.
- Projects where both recreational and tribal fishing access are provided will be given higher priority.

- There must be a viable sport and/or tribal fishery to be accessed at the proposed access site, validated by a letter from the local Department of Natural Resources district office and/or CORA.
- Priority will be given to sites where the potential for use is high and demand is great due to area population density.
- The applicant must demonstrate the ability to maintain the access site, ensure the safety of its users, and enforce user regulations.
- The proposed site must have the physical characteristics necessary for access site construction. Priority will be given to projects proposed on sites where property is already in public ownership and land acquisition is not required.
- Projects that will prevent or lessen the incidence of habitat destruction associated with shore-based fishing in a previously unimproved location will be given higher priority.
- Funds requested must be commensurate with project benefits. If facilities are to be shared with other expected users of the site, the GLFT will consider funding a share of the project costs based on estimated use by anglers versus non-anglers.
- Priority will be given to projects where timing is a factor.
- Projects must not conflict with goals of agencies represented on the GLFT Board.
- Funding priority will be given to proposals that include angler education opportunities (e.g., signage at access site that identifies potential catch, fishing seasons, and other information relevant to anglers and aligned with the GLFT mission and goals).
- 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.
- Proposals for development of public recreational facilities must provide fishing-related amenities. The GLFT will limit its funding for any recreational access projects to facilities directly related to fishing and the accommodation of anglers, such as parking areas, restrooms, shelters, walkways, railings, lighting, signage, etc.
- Proposals to improve access should offer broad public benefits.
- Improvements to accommodate small boat access at shore fishing sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis only if it can be demonstrated that other funding sources have been exhausted.
- The GLFT does not fund public works projects, facility operation and maintenance costs, or general operating support, endowment campaigns, religious activities, or scholarships.
- GLFT funds will not be used for projects that establish for-profit ventures or benefit narrow interests, individuals, or members of the GLFT Board of Trustees or its Scientific Advisory Team. Organizations seeking grants must demonstrate competency in financial and grant management.