



POLICY ON TRIBAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING ACCESS GRANTS

Program Goals and Eligible Activities for Funding

The goal of the Great Lakes Fishery Trust's (GLFT) Access to the Great Lakes Fishery grant program is to disburse grants for projects that significantly increase access to the Great Lakes for shore-based angling and tribal fishing. These projects must involve constructing, enhancing, or renovating an actual point of fishing access, such as installing a fishing boardwalk or improving a pier.

The GLFT will pursue this goal through investments in:

1. Capital improvement and renovation of existing access sites, previously funded by the GLFT or other funding sources, that have exceeded or are nearing the end of their planned lifecycle.
2. Development of new high-value sites that fill a gap in access. Eligible sites may be located on the Great Lakes or on tributaries below the lowermost barriers.

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 to be necessary to utilize that point of access. Examples of this type of eligible amenity include:

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.

- 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

For Facilities Jointly Used by Anglers and Nonanglers

The GLFT recognizes that not all proposed facilities will be enjoyed solely by anglers. For facilities that will/may be enjoyed by other expected nonangling users, the GLFT will provide funds based on estimated use by anglers versus nonanglers. 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:

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

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.

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 all of the following:

- 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.)
- Financial support from the community (at least 50 percent of the project cost must be funded by other funding sources)

Approved by the GLFT Board of Trustees on August 11, 2020.