

BASIN-WIDE FISHERY RESEARCH PRIORITIES

FOR THE GREAT LAKES

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Updated October, 2009

This listing was compiled based on discussions within the Council of Lake Committees (for more information go to <http://www.glf.com/lakecom.php>). Order of listing does **not** imply relative ranking of priorities for the Fishery Research Program funding.

Research Priorities

The following four high priority research questions should help the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in selecting proposals that are submitted to the Fishery Research Program. These priority questions (in no specific order) are:

- What ecological and sociocultural obstacles prevent re-establishment of viable [or self-sustaining] populations of native species, such as lake trout, lake sturgeon, ciscoes, deepwater sculpin, American eel, and others? What management actions can be considered to overcome them?
- What mechanisms are responsible for reported changes in primary producers, secondary invertebrate, forage fish, and top predator production? What are the uncertainties and risks in potential fishery management actions to respond to these changes?
- How will invasive species affect sustainable fishery benefits in the Great Lakes, and what options should be considered by fishery managers in response to these changes?
- What attributes of aquatic habitats are essential to achieve environmental and fish community goals and objectives? What methods should fishery managers use to categorize, prioritize, and inventory specific aquatic habitats? What are appropriate methods and metrics for determining progress in implementing environmental objectives?
- What ecological conditions (biological, physical, and chemical) exacerbate the effects of pathogens on the viability of fish populations and associated fishery benefits? What are the short- and long-term effects of pathogens on the dynamics and viability of fish populations?