

**Distribution Counties: Statewide**

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### **Second round of grants to improve aquatic habitat announced**

The Department of Natural Resources today announced its second round of funding in 2014 for the Aquatic Habitat Grant Program. This program is focused on funding projects that protect intact and rehabilitate degraded aquatic habitat.

There is \$1,250,000 available for this year's program. Funded projects will emphasize protecting intact and rehabilitating degraded aquatic resources throughout the state; developing self-sustaining aquatic communities that provide for continuing recreational opportunities and natural resource-based economies; and developing strong relationships and partnerships along with new expertise with respect to aquatic habitat protection and recovery.

Funding is available for eligible single and multiple-year projects by local, state, federal and tribal governments, non-profit groups and individuals through an open competitive process. Minimum grant amounts will be set at \$25,000 with the maximum amount being the amount of funds available for that grant cycle. Projects can address issues on streams, rivers, lakes or the Great Lakes. Smaller projects within the same watershed addressing similar issues and system processes can be bundled into a single grant proposal package in order to reach minimum grant amount requirements if necessary.

The program is structured slightly different this round, with a pre-proposal process implemented. Applicants must complete and submit a three-page pre-proposal form for review by the DNR's Fisheries Division for the project area. Pre-proposals must be postmarked no later than August 29. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their pre-proposal and if successful, will be invited to submit a complete application packet for their project. However, an invitation to submit a complete application packet does not guarantee a project will be funded.

"Michigan's world-class fisheries depend on great aquatic habitat," said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. "This program is critical as we strive to enhance the state's fisheries and build partnerships with entities that are committed to doing the same."

The Aquatic Habitat Grant Program pre-proposal period began August 1 and ends at the close of business on August 29. Successful pre-proposals will be notified by September 30. This grant program is funded by revenues from fishing and hunting license fees. The detailed program handbook (including timeline) and pre-proposal guidelines are available at [www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing) or [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants).