



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES DIVISION**

**Fiscal Year 2019
Application Deadline: June 28, 2019 5:00 PM EST**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Fisheries Division formally issues this Request for Proposals (RFP) for fiscal year 2019. The purpose of this notice is to solicit proposals from partners and universities that address the specific project below.

Fisheries Division formulates and undertakes a research program to provide a scientific basis for Division strategic programs, to address questions posed by natural resource managers, to develop new technology and management tools, and to conduct complex assessments.

This specific request for proposals will be disseminated to interested partners and universities via both email and posting on the Fisheries Division's website (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79236---,00.html) and the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website (<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86512---,00.html>).

SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Topic Area: Evaluating the Movement and Environmental Risk of PFAS Contamination for Aquatic Organisms throughout the Huron River Watershed

Award Amount: \$268,000
Start Date: Late Summer/Fall 2019
Anticipated Timeframe: 3-4 years

There is currently a "Do Not Eat" consumption advisory due to perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) issued by Department of Health and Human Services for all fish species in the Huron River watershed extending to Lake Erie (Figure 1). The general lack of information on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) leads to insufficient understanding of how PFOS moves through an interconnected waterway with both rivers and in-line lakes. The selected partner will work collaboratively with the MPART Wildlife Workgroup to evaluate environmental risk by identifying fate and transport mechanisms throughout the Huron River watershed.

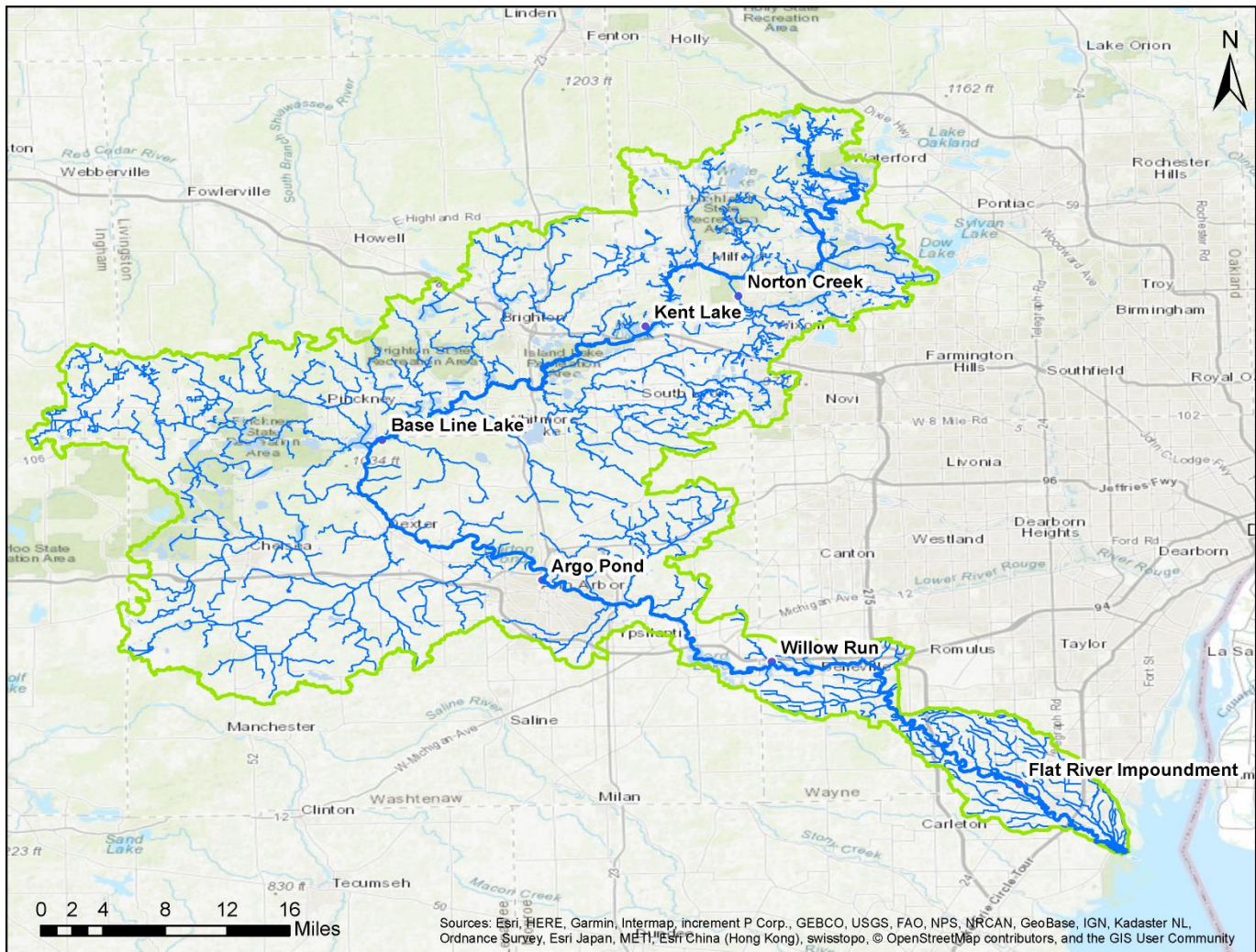


Figure 1: Huron River "Do-not eat" Advisory Area

Specific objectives to be addressed include:

1. Develop a conceptual hydrodynamic model to generate hypotheses and guide sampling for the movement and attenuation of PFAS in surface water within the context of the study area, taking into consideration factors like connected lakes, dams, oxbow channels, etc.
2. Building upon existing information in the literature, identify potential reservoirs of PFAS (i.e. aquatic invertebrates, sediment, vegetation) and quantify indirect uptake of PFAS by fish through consumption and foraging.
3. Quantify direct uptake of key PFAS by fish through bioaccumulation and depuration studies on resident fish species and/or other aquatic organisms determined to be key to understanding the fate and transport in this watershed.
4. Either address or recommend a pathway for future work for understanding the persistence of the level of contaminants in this system. In other words, "When can we expect to see PFAS levels decline in this system and at what rate if no other contributing sources are found?"

All proposals that include field sampling must follow the MPART sampling protocols, found at the following website: https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86510_87154-469832--,00.html.

A list of laboratories that provide PFAS analytical services can be found at the following website: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-tou-wrd-Analytes-IPP_PFAS_621093_7.pdf. Use of other research laboratories is allowed with detailed quality assurance plans to describe measures to ensure sound results.

The expected results from this project are to guide strategic monitoring and help determine when the fish consumption advisory may be lifted, inform management, and ultimately direct public health decisions.

We are seeking proposals to join the MPART Wildlife Workgroup in developing an advanced collaborative research team to address research goals and objectives stated above for this project. In addition to the criteria below, applicants will be considered for their experience conducting comprehensive ecological risk assessments and ability to work closely with agency staff.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS, SCHEDULE, AND RANKING CRITERIA

Proposal Submission Process

Study proposals must be submitted using the template and budget sheet found at: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79236_82227-499354--,00.html.

Deadline for Proposal Submission

Research Study Proposals must be submitted via email using the Division template to thiamkeelakulk@michigan.gov by Friday, **June 28, 2019 5:00 PM EST**.

The MPART Wildlife Workgroup Proposal Review Team will review all research study proposals by **July 10, 2019** to make a selection. Proposals will be evaluated and ranked according to 1) appropriateness of proposal in addressing high priority information needs as outlined (50%), 2) additional value-added study elements (25%), and 3) cost-benefit and partner cost-sharing, although no match is required. If match is declared, please state the source of the match (25%). No more than 5% of the total project costs can be charged to indirect or overhead.

For questions regarding the proposal request and submission process, please contact Kesiree Thiamkeelakul, Department of Natural Resources, 517-388-4536. Questions will be accepted until June 21, 5:00 PM EST.

To request addition to distribution list for MDNR Fisheries Division RFP notices, please send an email of request to: Newcombt@michigan.gov.