

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



LANSING

May 4, 2007

Ms. Peg Bostwick Department of Environmental Quality Land and Water Management Division P.O. Box 30458 Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958

Dear Ms. Bostwick:

SUBJECT: Response to Public Notice, Proposed New General Permit Category for

Limited Great Lakes Shoreline Management Activities

Fisheries Division staff have reviewed the proposed new General Permit (GP) category to address Limited Great Lakes Shoreline Management Activities from the public notice dated February 5, 2007. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

Fisheries Division does not generally support Great Lakes shoreline grooming without significant consideration for protecting important ecological processes and natural fauna associated with these sensitive areas. However, we do support the proposed GP as it seems to minimize negative impacts on the coastal wetlands of the Great Lakes over current permitting practices. We also support continued protection of sensitive environmental areas, critical dune areas and threatened and endangered species by prohibiting shoreline grooming activities where appropriate to do so. Of particular concern is the potential for cumulative impacts through such practices in highly developed locations where measuring or preventing harm will be difficult to accomplish.

As with Wildlife Division in Department of Natural Resources (DNR), we want to restate that the wetlands found along the Great Lakes shoreline are important to fish, wildlife, and the quality of life for Michigan's citizens. These areas can provide critical habitat for wildlife and play a role in protecting water quality and human health. It is important that we work together to protect these valuable wetlands and minimize to the degree possible any negative impacts of shoreline management.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed GP and provide our input. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Sharon Hanshue, Manager, Habitat Management Unit, at 517-335-4058.

Sincerely,

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.

Chief

Fisheries Division 517-373-3375

cc: Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR

Dr. William E. Moritz, DNR Fisheries Basin Coordinators Ms. Sharon Hanshue, DNR