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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

March 28, 2007

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT DIV

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

Dear Ms. Bostwick:

Wildlife Division staff have reviewed the Proposed New General Permit Category (GP) for Limited Great Lakes Shoreline Management activities and offer the following comments from a wildlife management perspective:

While the Wildlife Division does not necessarily support Great Lakes shoreline grooming overall, we do support the proposed GP as it appears to minimize negative impacts on the coastal wetlands of the Great Lakes shorelines. The GP is preferable to the current exemptions allowed under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. We do believe that much more could be done to restrict beach grooming activities and protect ecological processes important to the Great Lakes. We support the continued prohibition of shoreline management activities in environmental areas, critical dune areas as defined, and those that are in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We ask the Department of Environmental Quality to consider the potential for negative cumulative impacts in highly developed locations, where the temptation to exceed the permit authority is higher.

The Wildlife Division would reiterate that wetlands found along the Great Lakes shoreline are important to wildlife and the citizens of Michigan. These wetlands provide critical wildlife nesting, roosting, migration, and wintering habitat. As well, they play a role in the water quality of the Great Lakes which impacts recreational activities and more importantly, human health. It is important to continue to protect these valuable wetlands and to minimize any negative impacts due to shoreline management activities.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • Bob Garner • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

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[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) • (517) 373-2329

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Thank you for the opportunity to review these materials and provide our input.  
If you have any questions or need additional information please contact  
Mrs. Penney Melchoir, Field Operations Supervisor, at 517-641-4903, extension 224,  
or Ms. Faye McNew, Waterfowl Specialist, at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,



William E. Moritz, Chief  
Wildlife Division  
517-373-1263

cc: Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR  
Ms. Mary Ellen Cromwell, DNR  
Dr. Kelley Smith, DNR  
Mr. Douglas Reeves, DNR  
Ms. Penney Melchoir, DNR  
Ms. Faye McNew, DNR