

# ASSESSING INFORMATION NEEDS AND DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The Water Center is working to enhance freshwater research activities at the University of Michigan by fostering cross-disciplinary collaborations, encouraging new linkages to freshwater issues in research and courses, and providing more opportunities to study and learn about the Great Lakes and other large freshwater systems.

Through this funding effort, the Water Center is increasing U-M's capacity to contribute solutions to the protection and restoration of freshwater systems.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## ADDITIONAL CORE TEAM MEMBERS

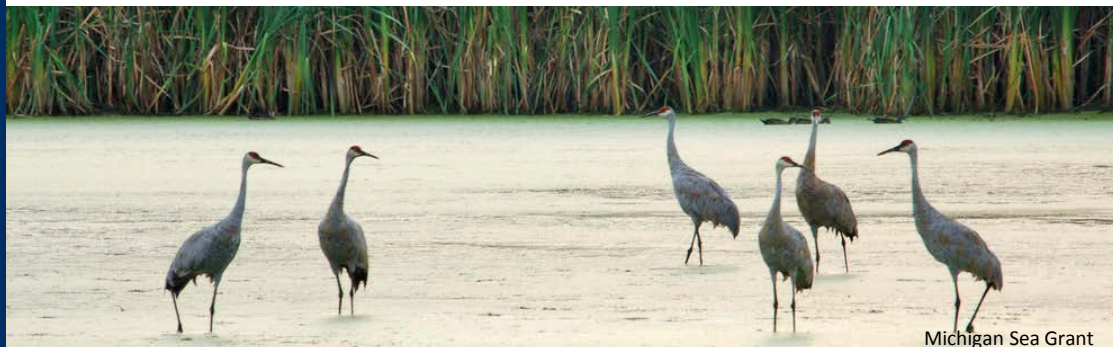
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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Great Lakes resource managers commonly express a need for publically accessible habitat data and decision support tools that can be applied to a multitude of issues throughout the basin. The project team has been developing the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Framework (GLAHF), a geo-referenced, spatial, framework for aquatic habitat data for the Great Lakes. The project will leverage investments by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust in the GLAHF and the team's existing relationships with resource managers in the development of web-based applications and decision support systems (DSS).

The project is structured to ensure that the tools developed are useful and tailored to managers' needs. The first step of the project is to conduct a survey, comparison, and gap analysis of existing DSS tools. The project team will then organize bi-national workshops and iterative meetings with managers across the basin to share the gap analysis, and receive input on design and implementation of tools that will be useful to support Great Lakes habitat management, restoration, and policy decisions. These workshops will be comprised of state, provincial, and federal managers from the U.S. and Canada. Feedback from these workshops will provide the basis for development of web-based tools.

This work will increase the reach of water research at U-M by providing tools that synthesize GLAHF datasets, and by developing collaborations among the Water Center, GLOS, the Institute for Fisheries Research, the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, state and federal agencies, NGOs, and various bi-national efforts across the basin.



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