



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

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.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (517) 373-2329

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!

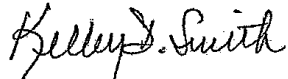
Ms. Peg Bostwick

- 2 -

May 4, 2007

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