

# **FISHERY RESEARCH PRIORITIES: LAKE MICHIGAN Great Lakes Fishery Commission**

Updated August 2025

This listing was compiled based on input from the Lake Michigan lake committee and its technical committee and from discussions within the Council of Lake Committees. Order of listing does **not** imply relative ranking of priorities for the Fishery Research Program funding.

## **Research Priorities**

These Lake Michigan Priority Research Needs were developed to encourage progress towards meeting Lake Michigan Fish Community Objectives (FCOs; [http://www.glfc.org/pubs/SpecialPubs/Sp95\\_3.pdf](http://www.glfc.org/pubs/SpecialPubs/Sp95_3.pdf)). We emphasize that the specific FCOs need to be interpreted in the context of the Goals and Guiding Principles within which they were framed. Interested researchers should review the FCOs (Eshenroder et al. 1995), as well as the latest version of the State of Lake Michigan document (Holey and Trudeau 2005), for additional background information concerning these research priorities. Priorities are updated annually; copies of the most recent priority list, the Fish Community Objectives, and the State of Lake Michigan report are available on the GLFC web site ([www.glfc.org](http://www.glfc.org)), from the chairperson of the Lake Michigan Committee (Tom Gorenflo - CORA), or from the chairperson of the Lake Michigan Technical Committee (Greg Wright – CORA). **The current list of priority research questions identified by the Lake Michigan Committee and Technical Committee is indicated below**, but any innovative research project that clearly will advance the achievement of FCOs will be given serious consideration for support by the LMC, even if not included on the specific list of priority research questions.

1. Whitefish – What are the mechanisms contributing to the collapse, and lack of recovery, of Diporeia?
2. Lake Trout/Telemetry – Determine movement patterns and spawning locations of both wild and stocked Lake Trout in the southern basin of Lake Michigan.
3. Alewife/Prey – What are spatial and seasonal patterns in prey distribution and how do those movements impact the ability to effectively sample prey biomass/composition?
4. Chinook/Steelhead – What are the reproductive contributions and drivers of annual variation of naturalized populations?