



Great Lakes Fishery Trust – Habitat Initiative

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration
Habitat and Species Workshop

Presented by: Mark Coscarelli, Manager and Secretary
March 13, 2009



Outline

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Funding themes
- ▶ GLFT habitat initiative
- ▶ Next steps



Mission of the GLFT

- ▶ “Provide funding to enhance, protect and rehabilitate Great Lakes fishery resources to compensate for lost use and enjoyment of the Lake Michigan (and other Great Lakes) fishery resulting from operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant.”



What is the Trust?

- ▶ Private charitable foundation
- ▶ Guided by board of trustees under
 - ▶ 1994 Settlement agreement
 - ▶ Trust instrument
 - ▶ Strategic plan
- ▶ Provides grants to mitigate fish losses
- ▶ Managed by a private firm

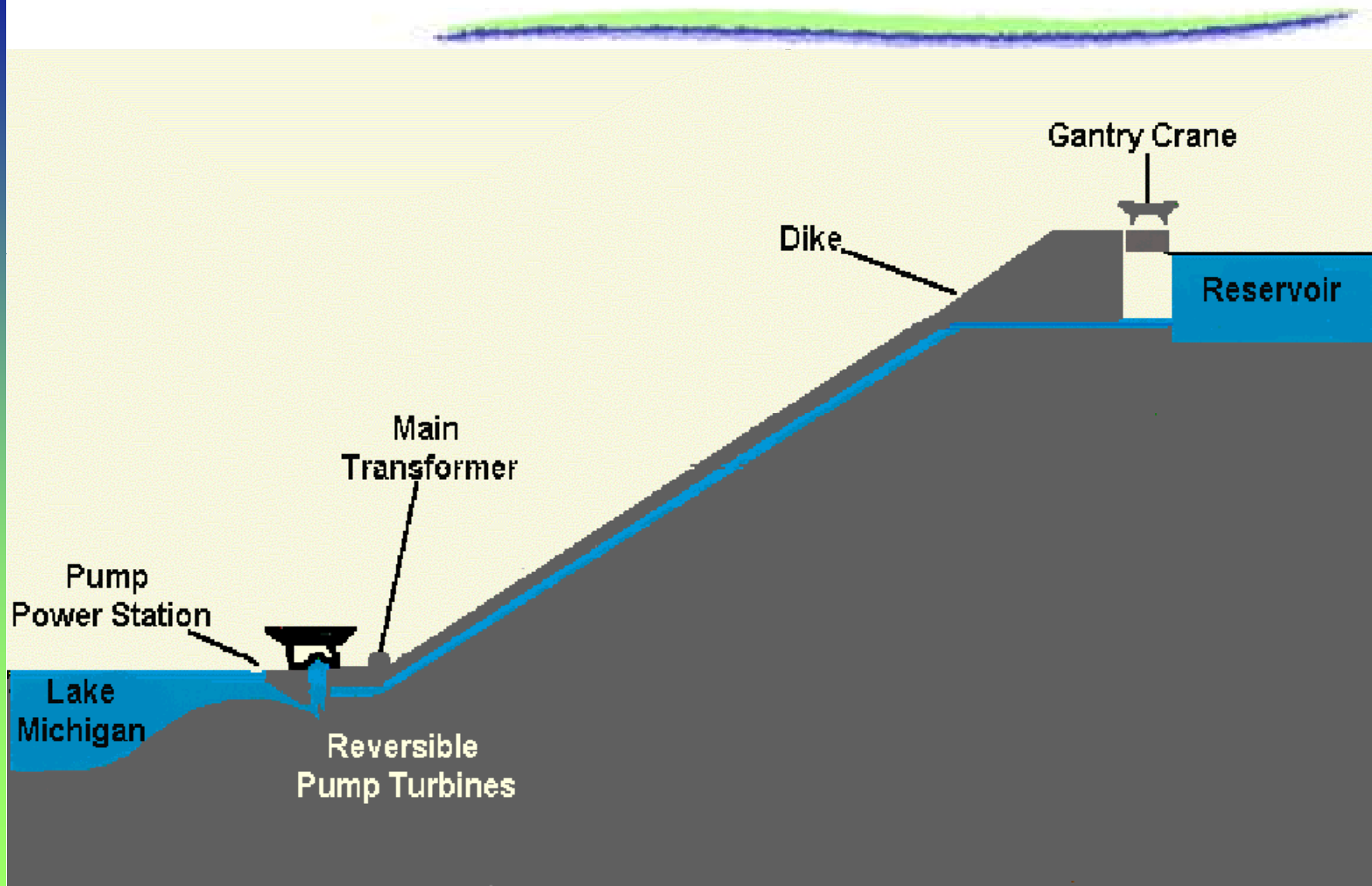


Ludington Pump Storage Facility





Pumped Storage Diagram



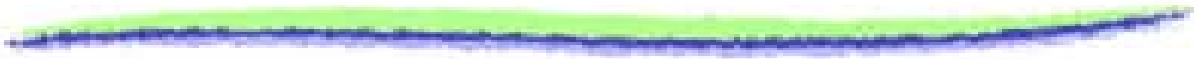



Fish Damage





1986 Legal Action

- 
- 
- ▶ State of Michigan
 - ▶ Michigan United Conservation Clubs
 - ▶ National Wildlife Federation
 - ▶ Federal Government (DOI)
 - ▶ Indian Tribes
- ▶ Consumers Energy
 - ▶ Detroit Edison





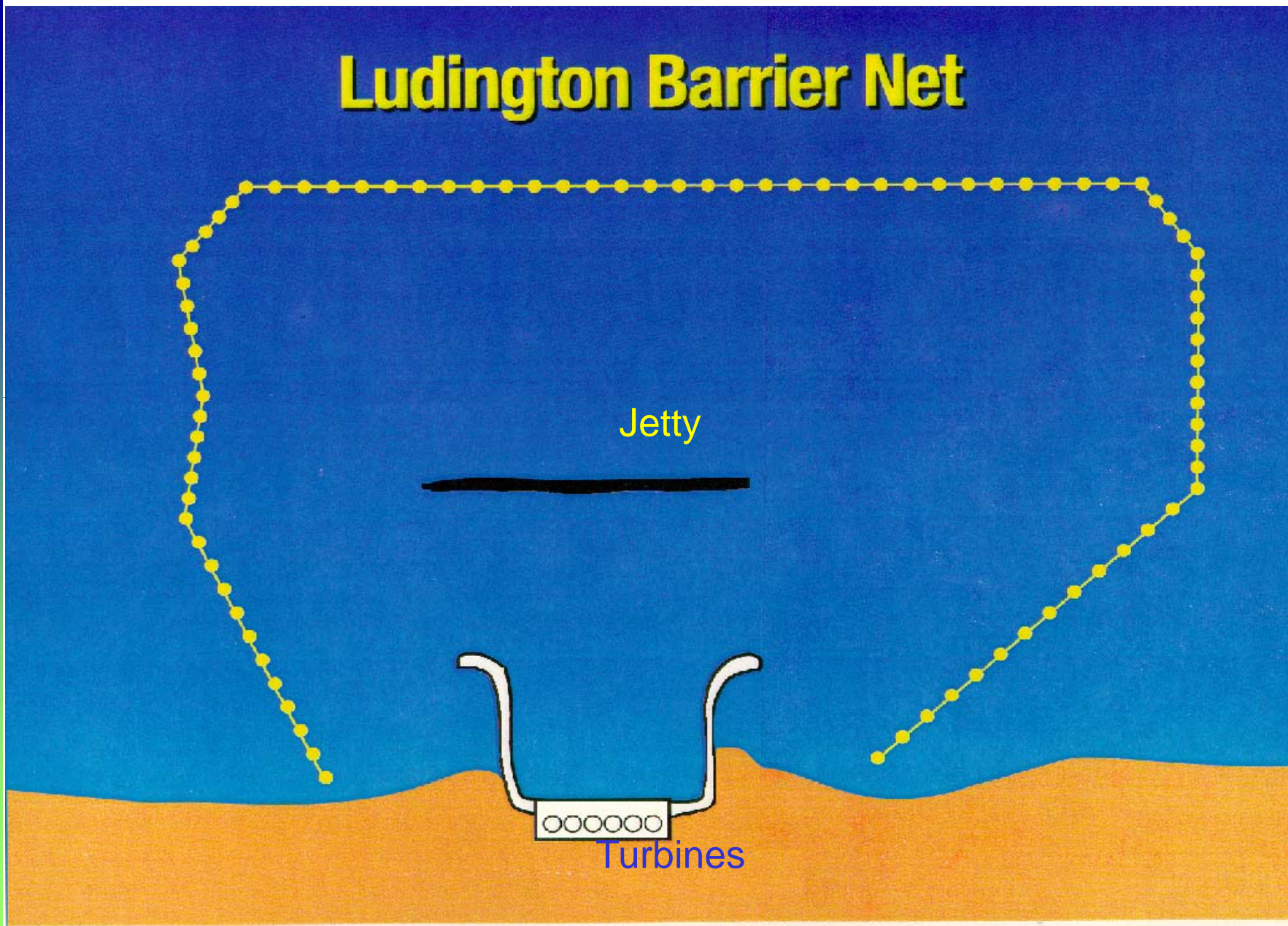
Settlement Agreement 1994

- ▶ State court consent agreement
 - ▶ FERC license provisions recognizing settlement
- ▶ Install seasonal barrier nets to reduce fish losses
- ▶ Provide compensation for
 - ▶ past fish loss (sale and disposition of lands)
 - ▶ future fish loss (cash payments)
- ▶ Trust to provide mitigation through grants for education, recreation, and habitat protection





Ludington Barrier Net





Why A Private Trust?

A decorative horizontal line with a green-to-blue gradient, slightly wavy, positioned below the title.

- ▶ Numerous litigants/claimants
- ▶ No party was willing to vest sole control to state or federal agency





Compensation and Current Assets

Source of Grant Funding

- ▶ Capitalization
 - ▶ 10,800 acres of land + initial \$5 million to GLFT
(15,000 acres to the MI DNR)
- ▶ Annual payments for fish losses
 - ▶ approximately \$2.4 million/year
(until 2019 - FERC license period)
- ▶ Interest and earnings from ~\$18 million corpus





Board of Trustees



Provisional Trustees:

- Little River Band of Ottawa
- Little Traverse Band of Odawa



12 Member Scientific Advisory Team

- ▶ Michigan Department of Natural Resources (2)
- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- ▶ Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- ▶ National Wildlife Federation
- ▶ The Detroit Edison Company
- ▶ Consumers Energy
- ▶ Michigan State University
- ▶ Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- ▶ Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- ▶ Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA)





Trust Management

Public Sector Consultants Inc.

- ▶ Administrative duties
- ▶ Grant administration
- ▶ Bookkeeping
- ▶ Land disposition
- ▶ Public information campaign





Grantee Eligibility

- ▶ Local Governments
- ▶ Colleges and Universities
- ▶ Non-profits 501(c)3
- ▶ State and Federal Agencies
- ▶ Indian Tribes





Funding Themes

- ▶ Fishery research (e.g., health and recruitment)
- ▶ Shore-based fishing access
- ▶ Stewardship
- ▶ Muskegon River Watershed Initiative
- ▶ **Habitat Initiative**

- ▶ Approximately \$40 million in grants since 1998



GLFT Habitat Initiative

State-of-the-Art Approaches for Assessment of Great Lakes Nearshore and Large River Fish Habitat 2008

by:

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Scope of Work

- ▶ Reviewed 282 studies and interviewed 44 researchers at 25 organizations (agencies, universities or businesses) by telephone or email
- ▶ 141 pertained to large rivers and 122 were nearshore studies or protocols
- ▶ Conducted numerous web-based database searches and visited over 200 web sites pertaining to riverine, nearshore, and coastal wetland habitat assessment.



Gaps in Large River Habitat

- ▶ Serious lack of real-time monitoring of flow and chemistry in large rivers
- ▶ Need for detailed local channel habitat data (e.g., bathymetry, velocity profiles, substrate composition)
- ▶ Studies of connected floodplains (e.g. how they function, off-channel diversity)



Gaps in Nearshore Habitat

- ▶ High resolution bathymetry and substrate mapping
- ▶ Spectral and radar imagery is sparse
- ▶ Research to estimate productivity, turbidity, and water quality of coastal zones
- ▶ Uniform approach to classifying and mapping coastal habitats



Goal Statement

- ▶ Provide resource managers, planners, scientists, and policymakers with the information necessary to make better-informed decisions when identifying priorities for conservation and restoration, with an emphasis on Great Lakes nearshore and large river mouth fisheries.



Priorities

- ▶ Determine ecological function and dynamics
- ▶ Determine distribution and condition of critical nearshore habitats
- ▶ Determine appropriate spatiotemporal scales for data collection and resource management
- ▶ Develop a habitat classification system and establish a permanent home for the system
- ▶ Build consensus and facilitate use of a classification framework of Great Lakes nearshore habitat by resource managers, researchers, and conservation organizations
- ▶ Facilitate the comprehensive mapping of nearshore and large river mouth fisheries habitats



Next Steps.....

- ▶ Convene steering committee
- ▶ Develop cost estimates and rank pilot projects for funding
- ▶ Issue RFP
- ▶ Expend up to \$500k in 2009



Questions?

For additional information:

▶ www.glft.org