

## WISCONSIN WALLEYE INITIATIVE: WALLEYE PRODUCTION GRANTS (WORKING DRAFT)

**Legislative Intent of Program:** Provide \$1 million annually in a new, biennial appropriation and direct DNR to create by administrative rule a competitive grant program to provide grants to municipal fish hatcheries (hatcheries owned or operated by cities, villages, towns, counties, or federally recognized American Indian tribes or bands in Wisconsin) and private fish farms (fish farms located in Wisconsin that are registered with DATCP, and that are in compliance with all applicable state and federal fish health and environmental regulations) for the purpose of building, improving, or repairing fish hatchery or rearing facilities and associated infrastructure to increase the capacity to raise walleye for stocking in Wisconsin waters.

**Grant Awards:** The Department may consider placing a cap on the amount any one entity can receive in a grant cycle.

Per statute, the contract awarding a grant must include the number of walleye to be produced and the purchase price of large fingerling walleye when the construction, improvement, or repair is completed.

A valid Fish Health Certificate is required for review prior to stocking.

### Eligible Costs (in statute)

- Buildings and structures used as fish hatcheries or for fish rearing.
- Fish rearing ponds.
- Wells or water recirculation systems.
- Biosecurity systems to ensure fish health.
- Holding facilities and equipment used for fish brood stock.
- Equipment used for the distribution of fish or for the collection of fish spawn.

**Ineligible Expenses** -may include the following:

- land acquisition
- permit fees
- prior costs incurred before the grant period
- salary/operating expenses within the "scope of current employment or operations"
- indirect/overhead costs not directly linked to increasing capacity for walleye
- temporary loss of revenue
- interest or finance charges
- fines

**Anticipated Timeline/Deadlines** - Anticipate doing one application period and grant deadline for full \$2 million

October 2013 - Rule goes to the Natural Resources Board

Nov/Dec 2013 - Anticipated application period and grant deadline

Jan/Feb 2014 - Decisions made

Apr/May 2014 - Grant Contracts signed

**Priorities** - may include the following:

- Number of large fingerling walleye to be produced and the delivered purchase price (per statute)
- QUALITY of large fingerling walleye to be delivered (defined by min. size, condition factor, and visual inspection)
- Cost effectiveness of proposal
- Shovel-ready/quick return on investment
- Walleye production experience, including time frame (< 3 yrs, 3-10 yrs, >10 yrs)
- % capacity increase
- Ability to stock fish in priority areas

### Grant Award Process

1. Acceptance of COMPLETE application by deadline (required)
2. Scoring based on Ranking Criteria
3. Review by technical advisors (may include follow up questions to the applicant)
4. Notification of awards (open to public)
5. Development Grant Contracts between grantee and DNR
6. Work on the project can begin under the grant agreement after it has been signed by all parties
7. DNR monitors project for contract/grant compliance (may include site visits where necessary)
8. Payment done on a Reimbursement basis (i.e., submit paid receipts/bills)