



# GLAHF

Great Lakes Aquatic  
Habitat Framework

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## **Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Michigan State University Team Up to Launch Updated Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Framework Geospatial Data Hub**

**Ann Arbor, MI** – The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission), with Michigan State University’s Aquatic Landscape Ecology Lab (ALE) in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, has relaunched the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Framework (GLAHF) in a new ArcGIS hub-style format. Existing data layers have been updated when possible, and new data layers will continue to be added. GLAHF, available at <https://hub.glahf.org>, is a basin-wide spatial database of ecological and socioeconomic information that is comparable binationally across the Great Lakes basin based on a hierarchically nested set of grid cells at multiple resolutions. These grid cells can be used as building blocks to summarize information for informing management decisions and for developing other products such as aquatic habitat classifications, basin-wide management plans, prioritizing locations for funding and specific management actions, tracking protection and restoration progress, and conducting research for science-based decision making. Data layers include land and water administrative boundaries, biological, environmental, and chemical, geomorphology, hydrology, landscape, and mechanical and temperature data from multiple sources.

Over a decade ago, GLAHF was developed by university, federal, state, and non-government organizations to integrate spatial data across the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world (Wang et al. 2015), and the platform was housed at the University of Michigan. The vision was a product that would benefit natural resource managers, scientists, and practitioners through the provision of geospatial data and information sharing. More recently, GLAHF has been updated through a partnership between the Commission and MSU ALE after Great Lakes fishery managers saw value in the ability to access, view, and download consistent basin-wide spatial data from a single site. An advisory committee comprised of federal, state, provincial, tribal, and non-government experts will guide the inclusion of new data, and MSU ALE will continue to maintain GLAHF and provide technical support. Tutorials for using the site are available at: <https://youtu.be/G61eGWx-tFQ>.