



## - Fact Sheet -

# Muskegon River Watershed River Initiative Assessment

### Project Background

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) recognizes that current and future projects in the Muskegon River Watershed can positively affect the fisheries resources of not only the river but the Great Lakes ecosystem as a whole. The GLFT has funded numerous individual fisheries projects throughout the state of Michigan and now is considering a model program that relies on the ability of stakeholders within a watershed to cooperate and make maximum use of existing and new funds.

This new program is called the River Initiative, and the Muskegon is the first such river being considered as the recipient of targeted GLFT program funding for the next three to five years. The first goal of the GLFT is to determine whether the Muskegon River watershed has sufficient organizational resources to manage this model fisheries program.

To undertake this initial assessment of organizational infrastructure within the watershed, the GLFT has retained KIESER & ASSOCIATES (K&A). We are an environmental science and engineering firm based in Kalamazoo. Our primary task over the next two months is to establish contact with existing groups and individuals in the Muskegon River watershed to obtain information for this assessment. This includes the organizational resources, goals, and activities of these groups, as well as the efforts that they see as necessary to successfully restore and enhance the fishery of the river.

Our primary means of information collection will be through an Internet Web site questionnaire found at [www.muskegonriver.org](http://www.muskegonriver.org) and through subsequent interviews with representatives from various groups. We urge you to visit this Web site (designed specifically for this project) and spend the necessary time to provide representative responses to our questions.

You may contact us with questions through the project Web site or fax a request for a hardcopy questionnaire to (616)344-2493. Opportunities for personal interviews of your organization's representatives by senior K&A staff will be arranged, if requested, following the completion of survey forms.

### Why You Should Participate in This Survey

The GLFT needs to ensure through this initial assessment that stakeholder resources are sufficient to effectively use funding to achieve fisheries enhancement objectives, leverage other funding sources, and generate project partnerships that result in self-sustaining efforts beyond the three- to five-year focus of this River Initiative. If a demonstration of these stakeholder resources is not identified in this Assessment Project, another Michigan watershed may be considered for this targeted funding. Thus your participation in this survey is vital to ensure that the Muskegon River watershed receives consideration for this significant opportunity.

**If you cannot access the Internet, fill out this form and fax or mail your request for a hardcopy questionnaire to:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**KIESER & ASSOCIATES**  
310 E. Michigan Ave. / Ste. 505  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
(616)344-7117 / fax (616)344-2493