



# Harris Chain of Lakes Community-Supported Fish Attractor Habitat Enhancement Program

## Introduction

In many lakes and reservoirs, the loss of quality fish habitat has prompted fish and wildlife agencies to construct artificial structures, to enhance fisheries. Results from a 2002 survey of state fish and wildlife agencies indicated that 82% of the states had conducted some type of habitat enhancement, with the primary goal of attracting fish to increase angler catch rates. To improve the quality and increase the effort of sport fishing in the Harris Chain of Lakes by increasing angler catch and effort on sport fish, we are proposing installing fish attractors. The Fish Attractor Habitat Enhancement Program is designed to utilize state, local, and federal funding and build community support and participation in fisheries habitat improvements.

## Goals:

- Greater public utilization of Harris Chain by increasing angler effort, and fishing success.
- Greater community appreciation for value of Harris Chain of Lakes resources and the importance of their management and conservation through community participation and support.
- Greater economic impact to local communities by increasing fishing effort of local citizens and visitors.



### **Fish Attractor Habitat Enhancement Program**

- The program is designed as two phased to building a community-based fishing improvement initiative to improve quality and quantity of sport fishing.
- Phase One is the utilization of local, state and federal resources to construct twelve attractors throughout the chain per year for three years period. During this initial phase FWC staff will cooperate with partners to develop community support and participation.
- Phase Two is envisioned as the local residents assuming ownership the program and performing the organizational, fiscal and construction responsibilities. The strategy for this phase of program is to involve fishing clubs, fish camps, communities, businesses and local organizations to demonstrate the benefits of this program and value of Harris Chain of Lakes and be willing to take ownership of the program.

### **Anticipated Benefits to Harris Chain of Lakes**

- Enhanced fishing opportunities for residents and visitors
- Increased appreciation and support for lake management and conservation
- Increased visitors to area
- Increased economic impact of lakes to local communities.

**Fish Attractor Program Funding Request from Harris Chain of Lakes  
Restoration Council**

**Cost Estimates – Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**Equipment:**

Attractor construction pontoon boat motor and trailer, truck, angler survey  
boat, motor and trailer and construction equipment

**\$128,000**

**Brush Attractor Construction:**

Materials, staff, equipment Operation and Maintenance

**\$37,500**

**Outreach: - social media, videos**

Staff and operations

**\$6,000**

**Evaluation – fish sampling and angler surveys**

**\$31,200**

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**Total Cost**

**\$202,700**