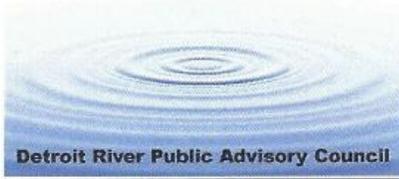


P. A. C.



Detroit River Public Advisory Council
PO Box 725
Trenton, MI 48183
734.675.0141

U-M Water Center
214 S. State St., Suite 200, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

September 12, 2013

Dear Water Center,

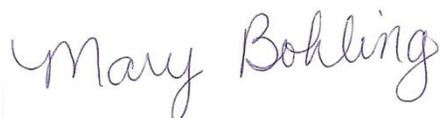
As the chair of the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC) Public Advisory Council, I am pleased to support the grant application titled: "An Evaluation of the Placement and Physical Conditions of Artificial Spawning Reefs to Improve Fish Habitat Restoration in the Great Lakes". The purpose of this project is to engage U-M researchers in studying spawning habitat restoration efforts in the St. Clair-Detroit River System with the ultimate goal of improving on-going reef construction and assessment.

This proposal will connect researchers very familiar with the ecology and fisheries of the Great Lakes with researchers from the College of Engineering who have not been engaged in Great Lakes topics to date, ultimately expanding the pool of experts we can call on to guide decisions within the Detroit River AOC. The proposed project will also meet an important research need by helping us better understand the hydrodynamics and sediment movement patterns around proposed and constructed spawning reefs and the resulting impacts on egg survival and fish recruitment.

Habitat restoration and removal of beneficial use impairments associated with loss of fish and wildlife habitat and degraded fish and wildlife populations are important goals for the Detroit River AOC Public Advisory Council. The Council plays an important role in helping prioritize and promote specific habitat restoration projects and connect research, restoration and environmental protection efforts. We want restoration funding to be used as effectively as possible and provide long term benefits for degraded fish populations. We are available to help answer questions and connect the research team with data and other potential partners. In addition, the Council looks forward to learning the results of the project and potentially applying their findings in future project planning.

I encourage you to fund this study that will support the restoration efforts promoted by the Detroit River Area of Concern Public Advisory Council.

Sincerely,



Mary Bohling
Chair of the Detroit River Area of Concern Public Advisory Council
313-410-9431
bohling@msu.edu