



**Traverse City Public Pier
Great Lakes Fishery Trust - Grant Project Summary**

Goal: To complete the design, preliminary engineering, studies and construction drawings and details to build an approx. 550 foot, universally accessible fishing pier at the mouth of the Boardman River on Grand Traverse Bay. The pier will provide unique, outstanding access for people of all ages, needs and abilities to fish for migratory and other species, and to learn about the Great Lakes, the importance of stewardship and the value, challenges and opportunities involving the fishery.



Location: The geographic location is Grand Traverse County, City of Traverse City at the mouth of the Boardman River on West Grand Traverse Bay, along US 31. The pier will extend into the Bay on the west side of the River mouth, and going lakeward of the present steel pile wall.



Need: We know of no other comparable pier that will provide similarly rich and diverse universally accessible angling opportunities and environmental education in a relatively

sheltered Bay environment on a river mouth that attracts a wealth of fishing opportunities year-round. Angling in Northern Michigan is an important part of the lifestyle and culture and is a significant economic catalyst. The Pier will provide access to a fishery that is often available only to those with large boats or resources for charter fishing. It will also educate thousands of Pier visitors about the value and importance of the fishery. It will draw people from downtown Traverse City to explore and learn about the land/water interface.

Fishing related amenities: Signage about fish species available, seasonality of the fishery and successful fishing techniques; lighting; parking; expansion of the walkway under the US 31 bridge to provide additional fishing opportunities; restrooms in close proximity to the pier; a planned fish cleaning facility; railings with openings for inserting nets to land species; integrated fishing rod holders; and durable benches for anglers. As part of the work proposed under the application, we will seek the ideas and opinions of diverse audiences to determine all of the amenities that might be included as part of this project to provide a truly world class angling experience.

Physical Characteristics: The site is at the mouth of the Boardman River, the largest tributary feeding Grand Traverse Bay that supplies 30% of the water supply for the Bay. The Boardman is a leading Michigan tributary for angling for Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Walleye, Smallmouth Bass and other fish species. The project is part of a City-owned waterfront redevelopment plan and is connected to the Traverse City-owned Bay Front to the west and to the Northwestern Michigan College Great Lakes Campus to the east. No acquisition will be needed.



Habitat Improvement: The studies that will be conducted as part of this project will identify potential negative impacts and options for mitigating or eliminating impacts,

