



INDIANA  
LAKE MICHIGAN  
COASTAL PROGRAM

**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**YEAR**  
2004

**COUNTY**  
LAKE/PORTER/LA PORTE

**CATEGORY**  
APPLIED RESEARCH

**GRANT AWARD**  
\$100,000

**LOCAL SHARE**  
\$67,000



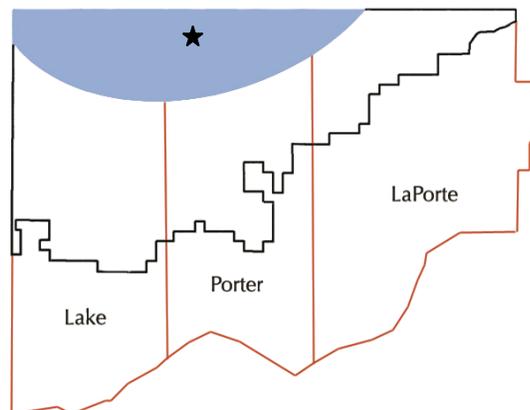
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## Assessment of Fish Spawning and Nursery Habitat in Lake Michigan

This project identified spawning and nursery areas in river mouths and connecting water bodies to the Indiana Lake Michigan shoreline and documented which native species are utilizing these reproductive habitats. To include in the study the now prevalent invasive species in Lake Michigan, researchers made a distinction between indigenous and non-indigenous species usage of spawning areas. Also, through the use of nets, traps, underwater TV cameras and video recording, SCUBA diving and snorkeling, habitat types were defined for future study.

Another component of the project included defining near-shore spawning habitat (critical substrates) of native species through the use of the R/V Blue Heron Research vessel. The goal was to provide managers with information on which fish species, exotic and native, are utilizing the habitats formed by the harbors and associated structures located at the mouths of rivers extending to Lake Michigan. Such information is useful for future development and management plans in addition to detailing the relationship between native habitats and exotic species.



**RESULT:** Funded research to determine the spawning habitats of native and invasive fish species in Lake Michigan.