

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**  
Part 483  
**PASSAGE OF FISH OVER DAMS**

**324.48301 Free passage of fish; rules; fish ladders.**

Sec. 48301.

The department shall prescribe rules and regulations to provide for the free passage and uninterrupted passage of fish over or through dams now in existence or that are or may be erected over rivers, streams, or creeks. The department may abrogate the provisions of this part that require the erection of fish ladders if the department determines that the height of the dam or the condition of the river or stream makes the installation of the ladders impracticable or unnecessary.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.48302 Inspector of dams; duties; plan; contents; copies.**

Sec. 48302.

The department is the inspector of dams across rivers, streams, and creeks of this state and shall prepare a draft of a general plan that the department determines will best permit the free passage of large and small fish up and down a stream at the dam. Each plan shall set forth details and specifications for material and construction and connection with the dam that will enable the owner of the dam to properly construct and place the means designated. The department shall furnish a copy of the plans and specifications to each owner or occupant of a dam, on request.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.48303 Order to provide free passage of fish; compliance; kind and manner.**

Sec. 48303.

Any person owning or using any dam that exists or may be constructed across any river, stream, or creek in this state, if ordered by the department, shall, within 90 days after the issuance of the order, erect and maintain in good repair sufficient and permanent means to admit the free and uninterrupted passage of fish over or through the dam. The means providing for the free passage of fish shall be of a kind and shall be placed in a manner prescribed by the department.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.48304 Prosecutions; mandamus.**

Sec. 48304.

The department shall prosecute in the name of the people of the state in all cases where this part is violated, and the prosecuting attorney of the county in which a prosecution is commenced under this part shall aid in the prosecution when requested to do so by the department. The attorney general may institute mandamus proceedings in the circuit court for Ingham county to compel any person to comply with this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.48305 Violations of part; separate offenses.**

Sec. 48305.

If any person owning, using, or employing the use of any dam across any of the rivers, streams, or creeks of this state refuses or fails to erect and maintain in proper repair the means or equipment ordered by the department, that person is guilty of a violation of this part, and every period of 30 days during which any person owning or using a dam fails to erect or maintain in proper repair the means or equipment for the free passage of fish renders that person guilty of a distinct and separate offense of this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.48306 Construction of passageways for fish by department; expenses; payment; tax assessment.**

Sec. 48306.

If the owner or user of any dam refuses or fails to construct and maintain the means or equipment for the free passage of fish when ordered by the department, the department may cause the same to be constructed over or through the dam at the place in the dam that will cause the least injury to the water power, and the expense of the construction of the means for the free passage of fish shall be certified by the department to the county board of commissioners of the county in which the dam is located, and the expense shall be audited by the county board of commissioners and shall be paid from the general fund of the county. The county board of commissioners of any county, upon auditing and allowing the expense, shall order, by resolution, the supervisor of the township or ward in which the dam is situated to spread the expense upon the assessment roll of the township or ward as a tax against the property to which the dam is appurtenant and against the owners of the property to be collected in the same manner as other township taxes and paid over to the county treasurer or returned as delinquent in accordance with law.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.48307 Passage of fish through and over dams; apparatus obstructing rivers, streams, or creeks prohibited; violation; authority of department.**

Sec. 48307.

Except as authorized by law, a person shall not obstruct the channel or course of any river, stream, or creek in

this state by placing or causing to be placed in that river, stream, or creek any net, wire, screen, or any other apparatus or material of any kind that will prevent the free passage of fish up and down the river, stream, or creek. A person who violates this section is guilty of a violation of this part. The department may in the public interest authorize the placing of screens in any river, stream, creek, or in the inlet or outlet of any lake.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 57, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA