



**Committee of Advisors  
to the  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



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**Resolution #3: Funding for sea lamprey control**

Whereas sea lamprey control is the backbone for the achievement of fish community objectives, for stocking programs, for recreational and commercial fishing, for ecological balance, and for fish community restoration and management; and

Whereas the United States and Canada, operating through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, pursuant to the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, implement a sea lamprey control program that has reduced sea lampreys by 90% in most areas of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas more than five million people fish the Great Lakes recreationally, and whereas the Great Lakes fishery provides up to 75,000 jobs and up to \$4 billion in economic return the Great Lakes region annually; and

Whereas flat funding for the sea lamprey control program threatens to stall the implementation of the St. Marys River control program and threatens advances made in other areas of the Great Lakes if program dollars are redirected to the St. Marys River; and

Whereas the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries requires the federal governments of the United States and Canada to provide adequate funding for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to carry out its mandate;

Whereas the U.S. Committee of Advisors recognize that efficiencies in government are necessary and that agencies must do more with fewer dollars;

Resolve: The U.S. Committee of Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Supports the concept of continuous, adequate, dedicated funding for sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes by the federal governments of the United States and Canada;

Asks the governments of the United States and Canada, the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and New York, and the Province of Ontario to appoint individuals to an international steering group, similar to the Sea Lamprey Funding Task Force appointed by Michigan's Chief of Fisheries, to promote stabilized, adequate funding for sea lamprey control;

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Supports the creation of a Great Lakes Fishery Commission Endowment Fund with contributions from both government and private sources if the governments of the United States and Canada pledge to maintain an adequate baseline level of funding for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; the purpose of this fund being to secure a stable, adequate, and continuous supplement to sea lamprey control funding (provided by the governments of the United States and Canada) at minimal additional burden to the federal governments;

Urges an aggressive effort on the parts of advisors, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, fishery resource and conservation organizations, government agencies, the private sector, and all those interested in the perpetuation of the Great Lakes fishery to assist in seeking endowments to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's fund, if the federal governments continue to dedicate adequate funds for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to carry out its duties under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries.

Submitted by Todd Grischke

Seconded by Dennis Grinold

Passed

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