



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



Resolution #2: Allegheny National Fish Hatchery and Development and Allocation of Mitigation Fishery Reimbursement Funds

Whereas Lake trout restoration in the Great Lakes is a national priority for the governments of both Canada and the U.S., as evidenced in the Joint Strategic Plan and related Fish Community Objectives for each of the Great Lakes;

Whereas Lake trout restoration in Lake Ontario continues to be a high priority for the Lake Ontario Committee and Lake Ontario stakeholders;

Whereas The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Allegheny National Fish Hatchery (ANFH), rears all of the lake trout stocked in the U.S. waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario and, as a National Broodstock Station, currently holds three lake trout strains;

Whereas Chronic staff vacancies and operating budget shortfalls at ANFH seriously jeopardize lake trout restoration programs on Lakes Erie and Ontario;

Whereas The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) currently operates nearly 40 fish hatcheries that are involved in mitigation fishery activities related to construction and operation of Federal water resource development projects;

Whereas The Service has historically expended its appropriations to offset mitigation fishery costs resulting in deficits in maintenance and operation of its National Fish Hatchery System and its Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program to the detriment of lake trout restoration programs in the Great Lakes;

Whereas H.R. 4383 (attached) has been introduced into the 108th Congress, 2nd Session, to cause the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tennessee Valley Authority to pay to the Service the total amount of funds necessary to meet the mitigation fishery costs to meet objectives described in the fishery mitigation plans respective water development projects; and,

Whereas H.R. 4383, as introduced, fails to specify that mitigation fishery reimbursement funds shall be used to remedy deficits in maintenance and operation of its National Fish Hatchery System and its Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program; now therefore

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Be it resolved

(1) That the Great Lakes Fishery Commission request that the Service restore funding for the ANFH so that the lake trout can be produced and restoration of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie can continue, and that adequate funding be provided to Iron River, Pendills Creek and Jordan River National Fish Hatcheries to support native trout restoration efforts in Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

(2) That the Great Lakes Fishery Commission encourage the Great Lakes Task Force to support H.R. 4383 with an amendment to require that any mitigation fishery reimbursement funds shall be used to remedy deficits in maintenance and operation of its National Fish Hatchery System and its Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program.

(3) That the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urge the Great Lakes Task Force to offer a specific amendment of H.R. 4383 to its sponsors in the form of an addition, as follows:

SEC. 6. ALLOCATION OF MITIGATION FISHERY COST REIMBURSEMENTS.

The Service has historically expended its appropriations to offset mitigation fishery costs resulting in deficits in maintenance and operation of its National Fish Hatchery System and its Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program. Therefore, not later than October 1, 2008, and each October 1st thereafter, the Service shall identify and prioritize deficits in the maintenance and operation of its National Fish Hatchery System and its Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program. The Service shall allocate, from mitigation fishery reimbursement funds received the preceding fiscal year, the total amount of these funds to remedy the prioritized deficits in the maintenance and operation of its National Fish Hatchery System and its Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program.

Resolution 04-02

Submitted by Ed Sander, U.S. Advisor, Lake Ontario

Passed by Committee of Advisors

June 8, 2004

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