



United States Committee of Advisors



A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PROHIBITION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY NET PEN AQUACULTURE FACILITIES IN THE U.S. WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES

WHEREAS, interest in the concept of net pen aquaculture as an activity of economic benefit to states and provinces in the Great Lakes system has arisen in recent years;

WHEREAS, private funded efforts have already established or are in the planning process of establishing net pen aquaculture sites in both Canadian and U.S waters of the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, increased aquaculture activity within the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes has the potential to provide substantial economic benefit to the communities of the Great Lakes watershed;

WHEREAS, net pen aquaculture in both North America and the rest of the world has shown a need for extensive regulation to prevent serious disease out breaks among fish raised within said net pens, as well as wild fish that share the watershed with net pen raised fish;

WHEREAS, waste by product removal has proven to be a serious concern with net pen aquaculture operations throughout the world;

WHEREAS, the issue of fugitive fish escapement from net pens has become a serious problem in other aquaculture facilities throughout the world, leading to aquatic invasive species issues, as well as the genetic diluting of some specie wild fish stocks;

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario is currently revising application guidelines and policies concerning the quality of water and sediment and has called for public comments on a recently posted Environmental Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, since the Advisors 2015 Resolution recommending due diligence of proposed net pen aquaculture facilities, the State of Michigan initiated due diligence as to the economic, cultural and environmental consequences of net pen aquaculture in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes. In doing so, the State of Michigan has decided against approving new net pen aquaculture facilities because of the tremendous potential for environmental damage, especially by waste by products.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the U.S. Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to encourage all Great Lakes jurisdictions to prohibit the establishment of any net pen aquaculture facilities in the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes to protect the water quality and fishery of the Great lakes system.

*The United States Committee of Advisors represents commercial, recreational, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. United States advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; they are nominated by the State Governors and appointed by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
<http://www.glfsc.org/aboutus/brief.php#usadvisors>*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urges the Commission to work with the Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies to promote their adherence to the provisions of A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries that require signatory agencies to discuss and seek consensus on any fishery activity that has the potential to affect another jurisdiction.

Passed by consensus with one opposition

June 9, 2016

U.S. Committee of Advisors

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