



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



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**ADVISORS TO THE GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION PASS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR  
IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION AND RESOLUTION TO REMEDY FAULTY MACHINERY OF  
GOVERNANCE CRISIS WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**—The U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) recently came together, outside of their regularly scheduled meetings, to urgently call for a resolution (see attached) to the Commission’s broken interface with the Government of Canada, which currently occurs through Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), a branch of the federal government. The Committee of Advisors is comprised of citizens who represent varied interests, including recreational and commercial fishing, academia, state and municipal governments, tribes, First Nations, conservation authorities, and the public-at-large. The Committee of Advisors meets regularly to consider issues, share information, and provide independent advice to the Commission for discussion with governments about the management of the shared Great Lakes fishery.

The Commission was formed in 1955 under the binational Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between Canada and the United States of America (Convention) to address the long-term degradation of the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem caused by inadequate cross-border collaboration. The Convention charges the Commission with implementing a binational program to control invasive sea lampreys, coordinate and conduct research, and facilitate fishery management among the governments of two nations, eight states, the Province of Ontario, tribes, First Nations, and Métis. In accordance with the Convention, the Commission selects the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DFO, through an annual agreement--to carry out sea lamprey control throughout the basin. However, the Government of Canada, as a Party to the Convention, has also assigned DFO the role of interfacing with the Commission on behalf of the Party, or conducting the Machinery of Governance (MoG) functions, including serving as the fiduciary. DFO’s second role as a contract-based sea lamprey control agent for the Commission should be distinct and apart from its machinery of government functions, but as it stands, it is not. As such, the Committee of Advisors joins the Commission’s calls for the MoG to be transferred from DFO to Global Affairs Canada (GAC), thus removing the clear and systemically entrenched conflict of interest that currently exists.

Dr. Tom Whillans of Trent University, chair of the Canadian Committee of Advisors, said, “This is the third resolution regarding this issue Canadian and U.S. advisors have passed unanimously in three years. The lack of a response from the Government of Canada is frustrating and disappointing, to say the least. Prime Minister Trudeau can fix this immediately with a simple no-cost solution by transferring the Commission’s governance, and fiduciary responsibilities to GAC.”

“All who serve on the Committee of Advisors believe in the work of the Commission and its nearly 70-year track record of successfully controlling sea lampreys, advancing science, and facilitating cooperative fishery management,” said Captain Denny Grinold, chair of the U.S. Committee of Advisors. “The longer the governance issues continue in Canada, the greater the threat to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery and the more than 75,000 jobs it supports in both countries.”

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*The opinions expressed here are those of the independent committee of advisors and not necessarily those of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from indigenous, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, environmental, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are appointed by the commission.*