

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 2 - 2007M

BALLAST WATER

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species, including fish, pathogens and parasites, have been released into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as well as inland lakes and rivers;

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission has stated that the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species is expected to be one of the leading causes of biotic change in lake ecosystems in the 21st century, resulting in irreversible ecological damage, and diminishing rehabilitation prospects for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence;

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic species such as sea lampreys and zebra mussels have already had a significant negative economic impact on commercial and recreational fishing activity and municipal infrastructure;

WHEREAS, vessels entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence from the Atlantic Ocean are the primary source of new aquatic invasive species entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence system;

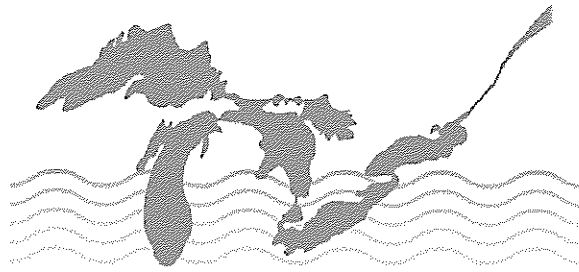
WHEREAS, current ballast water regulations have proven ineffective, particularly in regulating the flushing of NOBOB (no ballast on board) tanks;

WHEREAS, federal governments have been slow to take decisive legislative or regulatory action and to provide the necessary funding to deal with this issue in a comprehensive and effective way, despite broad consensus in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region that such action and funding is needed;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canadian advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes United, and Heal Our Waters Coalition have called for a moratorium on entrance of oceangoing vessels into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence until effective methods of ballast water treatments are implemented;

WHEREAS, the lack of United States federal standards or regulations has compelled states to enact ballast water treatment requirements in Michigan and California, and other states are currently considering similar legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and United States federal governments to



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

adopt a long term target of zero new introductions, not a reduced rate of aquatic species invasions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on both the Canadian and United States federal governments to pass comprehensive federal legislation to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species, including a ballast water regulatory program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such federal legislation must achieve the following:

1. An immediate requirement that all ships exempted from current regulations because they are in the no ballast on board condition be required to treat residual ballast water by best management practices such as ballast water exchange or other technology; and
2. Establishes a ballast water treatment standard regime for ocean-going vessels that includes:
 - The ultimate goal of zero discharge of viable organisms;
 - A requirement to meet an environmentally protective standard within five years or less following enactment;
 - A requirement to review technology on a periodic basis both before and after the five-year period to define the best performing technology and to require application of discharge standards based on the performance of the best technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the federal governments of the United States and Canada to develop management programs and regulatory programs as necessary for all intra-lake, Canadian coast-wise, and ocean-going commercial shipping vessels to undertake management practices that advance towards the goal of preventing aquatic invasive species that are introduced into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River from being spread throughout the system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that governments must ensure that all options investigated to control the introduction of non-native invasive species in the Great Lakes not result in the transfer of the problem to the St. Lawrence River region.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative