

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 3 – 2007M

INVASIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species have already caused damage and are continuing to cause damage to the waters in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, harming the ecological integrity, biological diversity and economic health of the bi-national Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region;

WHEREAS, new and damaging aquatic invasive species are being introduced into the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence ecosystem, including inland lakes and rivers, at a rate of more than one species per year through a number of methods, the most prominent of which is the discharge of ship ballast water;

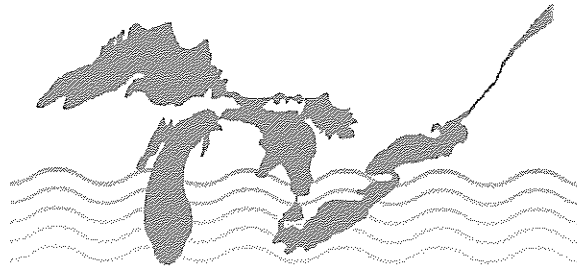
WHEREAS, local governments are taking steps to prohibit the release of aquatic invasive species in the waters of their communities, for instance through the use of municipal ordinances, but do not have the adequate authority, jurisdiction or resources to effectively control and prevent aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal action with regards to aquatic invasive species, work is underway by stakeholders through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to develop a rapid response communication protocol to help alert the necessary agencies upon the discovery of a new aquatic invasive species within the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal aquatic invasive species legislation in the United States, some state governments are now moving forward to enact their own state laws and regulations to control such species;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly supports state efforts to prevent and control invasive species, but the existence of different state laws and policies that are not necessarily similar or coordinated is not the most effective or the most efficient approach to prevention and control of aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, Bill S.725, was introduced in the United States in March of 2007 to amend the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to reauthorize and improve that Act and the bill currently sits in committee;



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

WHEREAS, although there has been strong support in recent years from within and outside of Canada and the United States for federal comprehensive aquatic invasive species legislation, such legislation has not yet advanced;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes that aquatic invasive species issues are urgent and that time is of the essence with respect to protecting the Great Lakes waters from their harmful ecological and economic consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the federal governments of Canada and the United States to promptly enact comprehensive national aquatic invasive species legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work jointly as a coalition, and work separately with their respective members of the Canadian Parliament and the United States Congress, to actively encourage through letters, meetings, and other opportunities to promptly enact comprehensive national aquatic invasive species legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will continue to urge the Canadian and United States governments to provide maximum funding and enforcement for existing aquatic invasive species control and prevention programs, specifically for adequate operation of the Asian Carp Barrier in Chicago's Sanitary and Ship Canal, even in the absence of new legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian government to work with the United States government to harmonize their approaches to ballast water control and invasive species protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will further encourage the use of municipal ordinances and other municipal measures to prohibit the release of aquatic invasive species into the waters of their communities and the shared Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007


Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative