



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

RESOLUTION 2 – 2008M

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND BALLAST
WATER MANAGEMENT

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

WHEREAS, new aquatic invasive species are introduced into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, including inland lakes and rivers, at a rate of more than one species per year and vessels entering the system from the Atlantic Ocean are the primary sources; and

WHEREAS, federal governments have been slow to take legislative or regulatory action and to provide the necessary funding to deal with the prevention and control of invasive species and the management of ballast water in a comprehensive and effective way, despite broad consensus in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region that such action and funding is needed; and

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

WHEREAS, in the absence of comprehensive federal aquatic invasive species legislation in the U.S., some state governments are moving forward to enact their own state laws and regulations to control such species introduction; and the lack of U.S. federal standards or regulations with respect to ballast water has compelled states to enact ballast water treatment requirements in Michigan and California, and other states are currently considering similar legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) strongly supports local and state efforts to prevent and control invasive species and manage ballast water treatment, but the existence of different state laws and policies is not the most effective approach; and

WHEREAS, the Great Ships Initiative was established as a collaborative effort to end the problem of ship-mediated invasive species through independent research and demonstrations of environmental technology, financial incentives and consistent basin-wide harbor monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard, Transport Canada – Marine Safety, the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, and the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation have established the Great Lakes Ballast Water Management Working Group to provide an interim response to calls for tougher ballast water regulations of ocean-going ships transiting the Great Lakes; and



WHEREAS, a new Seaway regulation implemented in 2008 requires all NOBOB (no ballast on board) ships headed for U.S. ports to engage in saltwater flushing of ballast water tanks before entering the Seaway, thus harmonizing current U.S. ballast water management practices with those of the 2006 Canadian regulations which require all ships entering Canadian waters to comply with the International Marine Organization's ballast water exchange standards; and

WHEREAS, U.S. and Canadian advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes United, and Healing Our Water Coalition have called for a moratorium on entrance of oceangoing vessels into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence until effective methods of ballast water treatment are implemented; and

WHEREAS, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, Bill S.725, was introduced in the U.S. Senate in March 2007 to amend the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 and the bill currently sits in committee, and the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2008 that contains ballast water management requirements that the region supports and that bill currently sits with the Senate.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on both the Canadian and U.S. federal governments to pass comprehensive federal legislation and/or regulations to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species and implement and enforce uniform ballast water regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian and U.S. federal governments to adopt a target of zero new introductions of aquatic invasive species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges that federal legislation regarding ballast water management include a requirement to meet an environmentally protective standard within five years following enactment, and 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 options investigated to control the introduction of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes should not result in the transfer of the problem to the St. Lawrence River region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to support the mission and efforts of the Great Ships Initiative and the Great Lakes Ballast Water Management Working Group, in the absence of comprehensive federal legislation and/or regulations to deal with ballast water management and aquatic invasive species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian and U.S. governments to provide maximum funding and enforcement for existing aquatic invasive species control and prevention programs and ballast water management, even in the absence of new legislation; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because the introduction of aquatic invasive species and ballast water management is a binational matter, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada to authorize the development of an annual report by the U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada – Marine Safety, on ballast water management progress within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and U.S. governments to harmonize to the highest level of protection their approaches to invasive species prevention and ballast water control.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lynn Peterson, Chair
Mayor of Thunder Bay
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative