



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

Resolution 3 – 2012M

Proposed listing of Silver Lamprey as a species of “special concern” under the Species at Risk Act (SARA)

Submitted by: Township of Nipigon

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors and other local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary activities and purposes of the Corporation is to take the lead in bringing together other local governments, state and provincial governments, tribal governments, and the federal governments, along with business, agricultural, and environmental organizations to build and a stronger economy and a healthier ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, “Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are a prominent voice in efforts to protect and restore the vitality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and improve the quality of life for the residents of the region. Through an integrated approach to environmental, social and economic agendas within their communities, U.S. and Canadian mayors of the Cities Initiative are leading a movement that will sustain our freshwater resources long into the future;” and

WHEREAS, the sport and recreational fishery of the Great lakes is considered to have an economic value of over \$7 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Cities Initiative view the Sea Lamprey, an invasive species, as a serious threat that devastated the fishing industry, wiping out both the recreational and commercial fisheries prior to the application of successful Sea Lamprey control practices, especially the use of lampricides and barriers; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Canada is considering a proposal to list the Silver Lamprey as a species of “special concern” under the Species at Risk Act (SARA); and

WHEREAS, lampricide and barriers have been identified as the top two threats to silver lampreys – as well as the two most effective tactics to control sea lampreys; and

WHEREAS, listing as a “*species of special concern*” requires the writing of a management plan by DFO to explicitly address how the species will be managed to avoid an elevated listing; and



WHEREAS, DFO has recognized that “alternate methods for controlling Sea Lampreys (other than Lampricide and Barriers) are more costly and less effective”; and

WHEREAS, any reduction to current practices and control methods being used with the Sea Lamprey has the potential to have great negative impact on most if not all of the native fish species, putting them all back at risk; and

WHEREAS, if use of lampricides and barriers is denied, Great Lakes fish communities will be severely impaired, recreational and commercial fisheries will be depleted, family fishing traditions will be threatened, fishery dependent businesses will be harmed, tourism and recreation will suffer, and worst of all – these losses may be irrecoverable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls upon the Canadian Government to exercise prudence and due diligence in the development of any management plan – especially one whose provisions may jeopardize use of the only currently effective control tools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that further science based research take place to identify effective alternate strategies in the efforts to combat the invasive Sea Lamprey; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that no actions be taken in the management of the Silver Lamprey that would in any way negatively impact the efforts to control the invasive sea lamprey.

Signed this 27th day of June, 2012

Brian McMullan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of St. Catharines