



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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2016M

ASIAN CARP

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species have caused serious damage and continue to pose a major threat to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system; and

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species have been introduced into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system over the years and have caused damage and imposed costs well over \$100 million annually; and

WHEREAS, many of those aquatic invasive species have migrated through the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to the Mississippi River Watershed and some have reached all the way to the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest threats ever from aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is in the form of Asian carp, including silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), and grass (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), and have been migrating up the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Wabash, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and other rivers over the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) have been found as close as 60 miles from Lake Michigan in the Illinois River, one bighead carp in Lake Calumet in Chicago, grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) in the Grand River in Ontario, and evidence of the presence of silver and bighead carp in the form of environmental DNA has been found in parts of the Great Lakes themselves, including near Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and Sandusky, Ohio, as well as various parts of the Chicago Area Waterway System; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been operating an electric barrier for almost ten years, and has upgraded the barrier and added multiple barriers, which appears to have kept the Asian carp from getting closer to Lake Michigan, but which has certain weaknesses and operating problems that create a vulnerability for carp to pass through the area; and

WHEREAS, a variety of federal, state, local, private, non-profit, Canadian, and other groups have been operating as part of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) to implement many additional actions to stop the advance of Asian carp in the Illinois River; and



WHEREAS, the barrier provides little or no protection for the movement of virtually all invasive species in a downstream direction; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative completed a report in January 2012 demonstrating the feasibility of physical separation and restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) in January 2014 outlining eight alternative approaches to reducing the risk of invasive species moving between the two watersheds, and confirming that physical separation is the most effective alternative for reducing risk; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have managed an Advisory Committee process for considering physical separation alternatives and related actions to deal with transportation, flood control, and water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative secured \$200,000 in funding and two facilitators/mediators to manage the Advisory Committee process with the desire to reach a regional consensus by December 2015 on the best alternative to prevent the passage of aquatic invasive species between the two watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee reached consensus on August 31, 2015 on a letter to President Obama urging that funding be provided to the Army Corps of Engineers in their 2017 budget to complete the Brandon Road Feasibility Study to provide one way invasive species protection of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee reached consensus on December 17, 2015 as reflected in a January 26, 2016 letter to President Obama urging funding for further study of controls at points on the CAWS to provide long term protection against the passage of invasive species in both directions between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, even when a regional consensus is reached, the time to implement a long term solution is such that additional interim actions will be necessary to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the Advisory Committee process with facilitation and mediation to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution for preventing the



passage of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the concept of physical separation as the most effective way to stop the passage of aquatic invasive species in both directions through the CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports solutions that maintain or improve water quality, flood control, and transportation in the CAWS and the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the implementation of all necessary and appropriate short and mid-term interim actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS, while a long term solution is being sought and implemented, with special emphasis on steps at the Brandon Road lock and dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the ACRCC to complete and implement the Contingency Plan designed to deal with emergency situations where it appears there is a greater than usual threat of Asian Carp reaching the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative asserts that time is of the essence to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution and that all possible efforts should be put forth to reach that goal as soon as possible, recognizing the urgency of the situation; furthermore, it is essential that the necessary short and mid-term actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS proceed on an expedited basis.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss