



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

**RESOLUTION – 2015B-1**

**NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY – LAKE MICHIGAN**

**Submitted by: The City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes contain some of the world’s most important natural, cultural, and recreational resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program provides for protection of marine areas, with 14 marine protected areas covering 150,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters currently in the program; and

**WHEREAS**, national marine sanctuaries draw regional, national, and international tourism, impact regional and local economies, and are featured and promoted in countless magazines, journals, books, and films; and

**WHEREAS**, national marine sanctuaries support a wide variety of educational programs to share the history of Great Lakes shipwrecks with the public and promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,

**WHEREAS**, the “Mid Lake Region” of Lake Michigan contains 33 known shipwrecks, and holds the best examples of many vessels that sailed Wisconsin waters, including 14 intact shipwreck sites, including the two oldest shipwrecks discovered to date and 13 wrecks listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Historical Society in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Administration’s Coastal Management Program (WCMP) recommended that an 875 square mile area within the 2,552 square mile Mid-Lake Michigan region be considered for a national marine sanctuary in Wisconsin ; and

**WHEREAS**, national marine sanctuaries protect nationally significant resources, such as Great Lakes shipwrecks, and support research and documentation to better understand, protect, and interpret the well preserved shipwrecks; and



**WHEREAS**, a national marine sanctuary in Wisconsin’s Mid-Lake Michigan region would leverage the investment made by the State and Mid-Lake Michigan harbor towns to enhance tourism as a key component of economic development in the State and the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative endorses and strongly supports the nomination of the “Lake Michigan - Wisconsin National Marine Sanctuary” by the Governor of Wisconsin on behalf of the State of Wisconsin; the Cities of Two Rivers, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Port Washington; and Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Ozaukee Counties currently under consideration by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Twolan".

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