



**Committee of Advisors  
to the  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



**Resolution Concerning State and Provincial Lawmaking  
to Require Mandatory Ballast Treatment  
Prior to Discharge into the Great Lakes**

**Whereas** federal laws of 1990 and 1996, and efforts of Ontario, intended to stop the introduction of biological contamination into the Great Lakes and its spread to inland lakes and waterways have not stopped the introduction of foreign organisms, and

**Whereas** the federal agencies which were assigned to implement and enforce existing laws have been unable to develop any significant level of compliance to the law's intent, and

**Whereas** agencies seem not to hesitate to fine or shut down U.S. or Canadian industrial companies or utilities for pollution, yet they fail to take action against the transportation industry that is contaminating the waters they are responsible to protect, and

**Whereas** commercial vessels refuse to make significant efforts to eliminate this contamination without legislative or economic incentives, and

**Whereas** one Michigan State Legislator (Senator Ken Sikkema R-Grandville), a member of New Brunswick Parliament (Greg Thompson), and the State of Washington, have picked up the banner and begun efforts to add state and provincial control to require and enforce rules controlling all substances discharged into their respective waters, and

**Whereas** such an action by one state or province would be ineffective.

*The opinions expressed here are those of the independent committee of advisors and not necessarily those of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.*

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and all advisors carry forward the message of need for ALL shoreline states and provinces, and those impacted by the transfer of this biological pollution, to the natural resources committee chairmen and ministers in every state and province lobbying for an effort to join them together in formulating environmentally protective standards for any ballast discharge (which includes NOBOB, persistent toxins, and biological pollution) and setting a mandatory compliance date. Once established, allow the shipping industry who are in the best position to judge what technology is feasible and cost-effective, to comply with the established standards and implementation date.

**Resolution 00-2**

**Adopted June 6, 2000**

**Duluth, MN**

**U.S. Advisors, supported by Canadian Advisors**

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