



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



Resolution #3: Funding for Construction of a Second Electrical Barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, for Upgrades and Continued Operation of the Existing Barrier, and for a Project to Investigate Permanent Hydrological Separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins

Whereas invaders such as the round goby and zebra mussels in the Great Lakes have invaded the Mississippi River basin and other species such as the ruffe may likewise expand their range from the Great Lakes into the Mississippi River basin, and

Whereas Asian carp (e.g., silver carp, bighead carp, and black carp) escaped from aquaculture facilities in the Southern United States and have significantly expanded their range through the Mississippi River system, have become the dominant fish species in some areas causing a significant disruption to the ecosystem, and are poised to invade the Great Lakes basin, and

Whereas, the Cal-Sag Channel and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal are the expected routes for these range expansions, and

Whereas critical components of an electrical barrier constructed and activated on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in April, 2002, are nearing the end of their service cycle, and

Whereas a second electrical barrier is needed on the canal to provide another layer of defense against the migrating carp and allow maintenance of the existing barrier, and

Whereas the State of Illinois has agreed to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct the second barrier in 2004 and whereas pending federal legislation allows for the Illinois' contributions to be refunded when this barrier becomes a federal project, and

Whereas permanent federal funding is needed to operate and maintain both barriers on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and

Whereas currently, the federal government has reached the maximum amount it can contribute to the construction of the second dispersal barrier and whereas an additional \$1.8 million are needed to

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complete the barrier, and

Whereas the International Joint Commission has written to the Great Lakes governors and Premiers requesting non-federal contributions to the barrier project to help make up the \$1.8 million shortfall, and

Whereas a major recommendation from the May, 2003 Aquatic Invasive Species Summit, convened by Mayor Richard M. Daley in Chicago, Illinois was that "A project should be established that would result in the hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins within 10 years. The separation could happen through lock modifications, through the placement of physical barriers at one or more locations in the Chicago Waterway System, or through other means."

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Committee of Advisors:

- Urges the appropriation of full federal funding for the construction and operation of the second electrical barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and to
- Upgrade the first electrical barrier immediately following construction of the second barrier,
- Request authorization for and appropriation of permanent federal funding to operate, maintain, and improve both barriers on the canal,
- Seek and implement innovative technology or methods to improve and enhance the effectiveness of the barriers,
- Support the recommendation from the Aquatic Invasive Species summit to investigate hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins and urge all appropriate funding entities to seek and underwrite suitable projects to fulfill this recommendation.
- Request that the states and the province of Ontario support the International Joint Commission's request for non-federal contributions to the barrier project and urges the members of the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries to support contributions to the project.
- Support legislation that authorizes this barrier at full federal cost.
- Support legislation that would refund non-federal contributions to the dispersal barrier project.

Resolution 04-03

Submitted by Advisors Mike Ryan and Phil Moy

Passed by U.S. Committee of Advisors and supported by the Canadian Committee of Advisors

June 8, 2004

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