

Resolution on the Prevention of Aquatic Nuisance Species Introductions into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin

Whereas the US and Canada are committed to protecting the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem; and

Whereas introductions of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are biological pollution that disrupts natural communities of organisms, degrades habitat, endangers rare species, undermines genetic and biological integrity, and permanently modifies the structure and function of this unique freshwater ecosystem; and

Whereas invasive species, once established in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River, are nearly impossible to eradicate safely; and

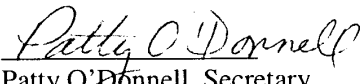
Whereas the environmental and economic costs of no action to prevent further introductions of ANS would far exceed the cost of environmentally sound and timely prevention; and

Whereas regional, binational and global policies are the only effective means of preventing transfers and spread.

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United urges the governments of Canada and the United States to:

- Assess all vectors of ANS introductions, including intentional and unintentional, into the Great Lakes and determine the relative risk of each vector
- Develop an action plan to prioritize and prevent ANS introductions from all vectors with set implementation deadlines
- Develop mandatory federal enforcement programs for implementation of the action plan insuring provisions for citizen suit
- Set criteria and standards for ballast water treatment and management that are subject to guaranteed periodic review and revision and that effectively reduce transfers of invasive organisms into and within the Great Lakes
- Create and implement a thorough and effective screening process to ensure all policies, treatments and technologies are environmentally sound (as defined in the National Invasive Species Act)
- Ensure that all policies, treatments and technologies are consistent with existing laws and agreements and pollution prevention objectives applicable to the Great Lakes
- Provide for comprehensive and regular monitoring and ecological surveys to detect new introductions

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON JUNE 10, 2001


Patty O'Donnell, Secretary