



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



Resolution 18-03: A Resolution in Support of Funding For the National Sea Grant College Program

WHEREAS, the National Sea Grant College program, as administered by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, has as its mission to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment, and

WHEREAS, the National Sea Grant Program helped generate an estimated \$611 million in economic impacts; created or sustained more than 7,000 jobs; provided 33 state-level programs (including 8 in the Great Lakes region) and 494 communities with technical assistance on sustainable development practices; worked with about 1,300 industry, local, state and regional partners; and supported the education and training of more than 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students in 2016, and

WHEREAS, federal funding to the National Sea Grant Program is leveraged with matching funds provided by states, universities, and other sources by at least one additional dollar in nonfederal resources for every federal dollar provided;

WHEREAS, approximately 95% of the federal funding provided to Sea Grant is used by state programs to provide business, industry, agencies, policymakers and the people with the science they need to sustain coasts, waters, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Sea Grant supports state and local decision-makers via a non-regulatory approach based on sound, peer-reviewed science and technology to help coastal communities address current challenges to the growth and development of their economies and restoration of their coastal environment, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call for the Commission and all affiliated agencies to support reinstitution of funding for National Sea Grant within the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill at a level of \$85 million for fiscal year 2019;

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 Forestry and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Committees of Advisors supports any effort to stop any reduction to the budget of the National Sea Grant College Program, asks the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to support such efforts, and requests the Commission to communicate this resolution to the chair, ranking member, and Great Lakes members of relevant congressional committees including the Appropriations Committees; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call upon the U.S. Government to take the steps necessary to maintain the National Sea Grant College Program and ensure it has the funding and tools necessary to continue support to states and communities around the U.S.'s saltwater and freshwater coasts.

**Approved by majority, with one abstention
Canadian and U.S. Committee of Advisors
May 9, 2018**