



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

Council of Lake Committees

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2003

TO: **CLC Members:** B. Breidert, W. Culligan, K. Cullis, J. Dexter, T. Gorenflo, S. Hewett, R. Hoopes, W. Horns, N. Kmiecik, R. Knight, R. Lange, D. McLeish, M. Morencie, T. Newcomb, K. Newman, S. Orsatti, D. Reid, T. Rozich, S. Scott, G. Towns, T. Trudeau, P. Wingate

FROM: R. Lange, Chair *Robert E. Lange*

RE: **Report of the Blue-Ribbon Panel**

This memorandum will confirm that the Council of Lake Committees unanimously endorses the recommendation of the Blue-Ribbon Panel that to effectively deliver the large vessel program:

USGS-BRD personnel, facilities, and vessels should be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Interior should annually transfer funds to the Commission for the purpose of contracting the FWS to conduct the program.

Further, to develop an action plan to implement this recommendation, the CLC has established a Vessel Program subcommittee, which I have agreed to chair. I am currently confirming the membership of this subcommittee. As timing is critical, I have committed to completing the plan by March 15, 2003. I shall send a copy of the action plan to all the members, as soon as it is finalized.

This initiative is a major undertaking for the CLC and is critical for effective fisheries management on the Great Lakes. It will require significant effort from all of us. I am confident that, collectively, the CLC will be able to deliver on implementation.

On behalf of the CLC, I would like to formally thank Dr. Stein, who led the panel, and all the panel members for preparing such an excellent report. The issues, although quite complex, were succinctly categorized and explained. Available options were well researched and presented. The report truly reflects the hard work of the panel.