



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



**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATION AND
REGULATION OF NET PEN AQUACULTURE IN THE GREAT LAKES**

WHEREAS, interest in the concept of net pen aquaculture as an activity of economic benefit to states and provinces in the Great Lakes system has arisen in recent years;

WHEREAS, private funded efforts have already established or are in the planning process of establishing net pen aquaculture sites in both Canadian and U.S waters of the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, increased aquaculture activity within the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes has the potential to provide substantial economic benefit to the communities of the Great Lakes watershed;

WHEREAS, net pen aquaculture in both North America and the rest of the world has shown a need for extensive regulation to prevent serious disease out breaks among fish raised within said net pens, as well as wild fish that share the watershed with net pen raised fish;

WHEREAS, waste by product removal has proven to be a serious concern with net pen aquaculture operations throughout the world;

WHEREAS, the issue of fugitive fish escapement from net pens has become a serious problem in other aquaculture facilities throughout the world, leading to aquatic invasive species issues, as well as the genetic diluting of some species wild fish stocks;

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has instituted comprehensive regulations pertaining to the establishment and operation of net pen aquaculture in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has initiated due diligence as to the economic, cultural and environmental consequences of net pen aquaculture in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes.

BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call on Great Lakes Fishery Commission to encourage all Great Lakes jurisdictions to thoroughly investigate the impacts of net pen aquaculture—through a comprehensive regulatory, social (including public meetings with stakeholders, citizens, and tribes and First Nations), economic, and scientific assessment—and prior to any approval of said operations, institute appropriate legislation and regulations to protect the Great Lakes from the consequences of unregulated net pen aquaculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioners request that Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies adhere to provisions of A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries that require signatory agencies to discuss and seek consensus on any fishery activity that has the potential to affect another jurisdiction.

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.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Commissioners support the establishment of a scientific committee under appropriate auspices to monitor basin-wide issues relating to net pen aquaculture and to resolve potential multi-jurisdictional issues regarding the same.

Passed unanimously by U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors

June 10, 2015

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