



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



Resolution 22-04: A Resolution that the GLFC Provide Leadership on Canadian and U.S. Action to Achieve the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

WHEREAS much international attention has been given to the crisis of climate change and less to biodiversity loss, even though their impacts and potential solutions strongly overlap;

WHEREAS *The Living Planet Index 2020* documented an 84% decline since 1970 of monitored freshwater vertebrate diversity and global risk of extinction of 30% of freshwater fish;

WHEREAS an outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, was the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, followed up in 2010 by the establishment of 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets for normalizing biodiversity considerations in government, reducing stress on and rehabilitating biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem benefits and services, and undertaking participatory and informed management;

WHEREAS as reported in the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 report and the *Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* none of the 20 Biodiversity Targets have been achieved;

WHEREAS the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity recently released the first draft of its *Global Biodiversity Framework* with 21 targets and 10 milestones for 2030, which was deliberated in Geneva in March 2022, anticipating formal approval by the COP in China later in 2022;

WHEREAS action on biodiversity is being identified as essential to the achievement of the *UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, such that 16 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets are cited as critical for Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 on the protection and rehabilitation of marine and freshwater ecosystems;

WHEREAS Canada is committed to targets of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, and U.S. President Biden recently announced that climate change and biodiversity loss will be the two major environmental priorities for the United States, including the “30 by 30” land and water conservation target;

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 indigenous, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, environmental, 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 appointed by the commission.

WHEREAS the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and its partners have registered real progress on tracking and achieving subnational targets for biodiversity that could serve as a global example and evidence of Canada's and the United States' commitments to biodiversity; and

WHEREAS in this U.N. Decade of Ecological Restoration, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's legacy primarily in aquatic biodiversity restoration could further serve as a model.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that much still remains to be done, such that the Commission could benefit in terms of institutional and financial support by clearer communication to Canada and the United States of America of its past and potential contribution to the achievement of international biodiversity goals; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission should pursue direct involvement in international deliberations on biodiversity and specific articulation of its programs to address international biodiversity concerns.

Passed unanimously by the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors
June 1, 2022