



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



Resolution #1: Submerged logs

Whereas removal of submerged logs from lake beds can affect fish and wildlife, water quality, and recreational users (fishing and diving); and

Whereas fish and wildlife populations are affected by the removal of coarse woody debris that provide refuge for all life stages of fish from predators and from wave actions, and that provide substrate for fish food organisms; and

Whereas sediment is re-suspended during log removal, harming fish during spawning, eliminating available spawning sites, and smothering fish eggs; and

Whereas submerged logs are found in large quantities in both United States and Canadian waters,

Therefore be it resolved that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission

- 1) take serious consideration of this pending problem,
- 2) consider referring this issue to the Habitat Advisory Board for review and scrutiny,
- 3) work with other parties—which could include Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bad River Tribe of Odanah, the Red Cliff Tribe, the Bureau of Fish Management and Habitat Protection, the Army Corps of Engineers, and sport and commercial fishing groups—to help facilitate sound, scientific discourse on the issue of removal of submerged logs from the Great Lakes,
- 4) ask management agencies to establish guidelines for the removal of submerged logs.

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 appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Be it further resolved that the U.S. Committee of Advisors write a letter to management agencies—which could include Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bad River Tribe of Odanah, the Red Cliff Tribe, the Bureau of Fish Management and Habitat Protection, the Army Corps of Engineers—asking that the issue of the removal of submerged logs be reviewed by management agencies and by the Habitat Advisory Board of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Submitted by Vermont Johnson

Seconded by Mel Both

Passed

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