

Mackinac Island, Michigan
June 1, 2013

RESOLUTION

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin is a critical water resource used for recreation, tourism, drinking water, navigation, marine transportation and many other purposes; and,

WHEREAS, use and enjoyment of the Basin’s waters are best served by protecting them from the introduction of aquatic invasive species; and,

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species continue to be one of the greatest threats to the Basin’s ecosystem and the economies it supports; and,

WHEREAS, the threat of aquatic invasive species demands leadership, and a strong commitment for collaboration and communication among partners in order to strategically promote effective legislation, policy, regulation, and information and education; and,

WHEREAS, many regional institutions, including those authorized under federal law such as the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species provide leadership and forums for preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, to achieve long-term success in preventing new introductions and reducing the threat of aquatic invasive species in the Basin, it is critical to:

- Establish and build on collaborative relationships with all partners to ensure coordination and engagement of all parties across the region
- Undertake comprehensive management of invasive species, including prevention, early detection/rapid response, control, applied research, and outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 6 provides a useful starting point for developing a binational strategy to prevent the introduction of AIS, control or reduce the spread of existing AIS, and to eradicate, where feasible, existing AIS within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec created the Council of Great Lakes Governors Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force in 2001 to coordinate their shared efforts to combat aquatic invasive species.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec renew their commitment to work together through the Council of Great Lakes Governors Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species, facilitate coordinated detection and response actions and minimize the harmful effects of aquatic invasive species already present in the region and to prevent their spread to inland waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through the Task Force, the Governors and Premiers will consider recommendations and build on actions of all partners including existing regional institutions such as the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors and Premiers commit to add the “least wanted” aquatic invasive species to State and Provincial lists for priority action that may include prohibitions or restrictions on the transfer of these species to and within the States and Provinces, early detection/rapid response initiatives, education/outreach, and seek their inclusion in similar federal lists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors and Premiers commit to the development of a cooperative “mutual aid” agreement to facilitate cooperative response actions and the sharing of staff, expertise and resources between jurisdictions in the event of detection of a new aquatic invasive species that threatens the region.

The undersigned partners recognize that the commitments made herein are aspirational and do not constitute binding legal commitments to program projects or expenditures.

Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec on this 1st day of June 2013.