

**Mackinac Island, Michigan**  
**June 1, 2013**

## **RESOLUTION**

### **BEACH HAZARDS AND WATER SAFETY**

**WHEREAS**, dangerous currents and other water hazards pose a significant danger to swimmers, boaters and others enjoying our Great Lakes; and,

**WHEREAS**, lifeguards and others must save people from dangerous currents each year and, tragically, many lives are lost despite these rescue efforts; and,

**WHEREAS**, governments at all levels, beach managers, non-governmental organizations and other partners are leading different efforts to improve water safety through research, information and education campaigns, signage and notification, and hazard reduction; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec individually have been aggressively leading efforts in each State and Province to improve water safety and protect people from dangerous currents and other hazards associated with high winds and waves; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers have together been leading regional efforts including, through the Great Lakes Commission, releasing a mobile app (myBeachCast) that integrates location, weather and beach hazard information to notify people planning to visit the beach whether there may be dangerous conditions; and,

**WHEREAS**, building on work to date, a renewed and reinvigorated effort along with improved coordination among all partners is needed to better protect people from dangerous currents and other water hazards in order to improve safety and protect lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec proclaim June 2-8 as “Beach Safety Awareness Week” in order to help call attention to this critical issue and prepare people for a safe swimming season.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes Governors encourage enhanced research and better near-shore wave models through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Sea Grant to better understand conditions that are conducive to dangerous currents, and how and when they appear.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes Governors encourage improved dangerous current forecasting by the NOAA National Weather Service and further development of the “virtual beach” forecast model developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Geological Survey, NOAA, University of Michigan, Sea Grant and other partners, and the infrastructure that supports these tools.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes Governors support information and education campaigns such as the “Flip, Float, Follow” campaign developed by Michigan Sea Grant and its partners, and encourage support for this and similar educational campaigns through partnerships with the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project or other non-profit organizations.

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