



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



Resolution #8: USCG Proposed Ballast Water Management Regulations

Whereas the U S Coast Guard is in the process of promulgating regulations requiring mandatory ballast water management, (BWM), nationally including a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, (PEIS), and

Whereas the final PEIS will establish a ballast water discharge standard that is significantly different than currently established, and

Whereas the USCG has suggested three basic alternative standards being:

1. Discharge of no detectable viable organisms larger than 0.1 micron.
2. Establish maximum acceptable discharge concentrations for various types of potential nonindigenous species.
3. No action - not establishing ballast water discharge standards...,and

Whereas alternative (1) seems to be the most stringent and technically simple and therefore the preferred standard for the Great Lakes if not nationally, and

Whereas the USCG is emphasizing alternative (2) which is far more technically complicated involving setting standards for discharge of different allowable concentrations for different organisms, and

Whereas none of alternatives are without merit, and

Whereas the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is a leader in fisheries research, co-ordination and management.

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Committee of Advisors;

Urges the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to initiate/continue a very proactive role in all matters concerning introduction of nonindigenous invasive species through

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- Specific involvement in research and evaluation concerning the three alternative standards listed above. Dissemination of current information concerning the proposed regulations to the GLFC family of fisheries managers is needed.
- Continued support for the re-authorization of NIASA with emphasis on the need for the USCG BWM regulations to be sound and enforceable and an integral part of NIASA.
- Continued partnerships with other Great Lakes management organizations in outreach programs both regionally and nationally that illustrate the severe detrimental impact of NIS on the Great Lakes and other fresh water bodies and the potential for greater harm both regionally and nationally without effective programs and sufficient funding.

Resolution 04-08

Submitted by Advisor Don Arcuri

Passed by the U.S. Committee of Advisors

June 8, 2004

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