



RESOLUTION
Adopted February 24, 2016

Advancing outreach efforts to support prevention and control of Great Lakes aquatic invasions

Whereas, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem is a highly valued freshwater resource facing ongoing damage from aquatic invasive species (AIS); and

Whereas, to sustain the value of this region's freshwater resources, both coastal and inland, new invasions must be prevented and established AIS populations must be effectively managed; and

Whereas, significant federal, state and provincial resources have been invested in educational outreach programs on AIS prevention and control that are being implemented on a state, provincial, regional, national and binational scale; and

Whereas, effective outreach must be conducted to target high risk behaviors of user groups associated with AIS pathways including recreational activities, ballast water, aquaculture, and water garden and aquarium trade, among others;

Whereas, Annex 6 of the binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement calls on the U.S. and Canada to "implement programs to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS by... undertaking education and outreach efforts;" and

Whereas, in the U.S., the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force recently re-established a Communications, Education, and Outreach Committee and is investing in two national public education/partnership campaigns, *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!*TM and *Habitattitude*TM, to optimize effectiveness of AIS outreach efforts; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species is charged under U.S. law with coordinating the prevention and control of AIS in the Great Lakes region, including inland waters and its Information/Education Committee supports the coordinated development and dissemination of outreach products to advance AIS prevention and control on a multijurisdictional level in the Great Lakes region; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Commission has a history of supporting and advancing communication and outreach on AIS issues through publications and initiatives including the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* and the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative; and

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Great Lakes Commission acknowledges the value of coordinated outreach to increase awareness and educate stakeholders as an essential component of efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in coastal and inland waters; and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Great Lakes Commission is committed to collaborating with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 6 Subcommittee, national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Governors and Premiers' AIS Task Force and other partners, to advance coordinated AIS prevention and control campaigns and outreach efforts in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region as well as other regions of the U.S. and Canada contending with similar AIS problems; and

Therefore, Be It Finally Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission encourages its members, Observer agencies and other partners to coordinate and collaborate on AIS outreach through state, provincial, regional, national and binational forums to advance their own prevention and control efforts.