



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



Resolution #5: Organisms in Trade

Whereas the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Committee of Advisors have been fighting for more than 50 years to prevent and manage invasive species, and

Whereas more than 165 species - including the sea lamprey, round goby, zebra mussels - have invaded the Great Lakes; and

Whereas our Great Lakes are governed by bi-national, federal, state, provincial, and tribal agencies and that their actions have made our waters "clean waters," providing a welcomed home for the invaders, and

Whereas invasive species cause severe economic and ecological problems and because invasive species are impossible to eradicate once they are established, these harms become permanent, and

Whereas the nonindigenous black, silver, and bighead carps escaped from fish farms in the southern United States during floods in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and

Whereas these carp are currently swimming toward the Great Lakes, and

Whereas bighead carp are currently imported into the basin for sale at live fish markets, and

Whereas the three species of Asian carp, if allowed into the Great Lakes, would wreak ecological havoc on the system, as these carp completely destroy the vegetation, weed growth, and habitat, which has been home to our entire fresh water fisheries, and

Whereas the U.S. Federal Lacey Act allows the federal government to declare harmful species to be "injurious," thus limiting the handling and transportation of the species, and

Whereas, the three species of Asian carp have not yet been listed as "injurious" under the Lacey Act, and

Whereas individual states and provinces have the authority to limit the movement and sale of live

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.

organisms and whereas this piecemeal approach has resulted in disparate policies governing the trade of live organisms, and

Whereas there exists no effective screening process in the United States or Canada to prevent future importations of species like the Asian carp, though such a screening process has been proposed in the pending U.S. National Aquatic Invasive Species Act.

Therefore, be it resolved that the U.S. Committee of Advisors recommend

1. that the GLFC begin a dialogue with state, federal, and provincial regulatory agencies and aquaculture facilities in the Mississippi River basin to address invasive species issues common to the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, and
2. strong support for the U.S. National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, particularly the screening process provisions for organisms in trade of the legislation, and
3. immediate listing of black, silver, and bighead carps as "injurious" under the Lacey Act, and
4. that all Great Lakes states, tribes, the province of Ontario, and the federal governments review laws and regulations governing the trade of live organisms and make immediate and necessary changes to those regulations to ensure that Asian carp and other injurious species cannot be traded live in the Great Lakes basin.

Resolution 04-05

Submitted by Dick Reuss

Passed by the U.S. Committee of Advisors

June 8, 2004

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.