



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



**Resolution #9: American Eels**

**Whereas** the American Eel is recognized as a species in crisis and in danger of being extirpated from Lake Ontario and

**Whereas** mortality loss from hydroelectric facilities, habitat loss (including dams which prevent migration), water quality degradation, changes in oceanic conditions and fishing pressure are deterrents to the growth, migration and spawning of the American Eel and

**Whereas** there is increasing demand by Asian markets and domestic bait fisheries and

**Whereas** the governments of the State of New York and the Province of Ontario have restricted the capture and possession of the American Eel and

**Whereas** there is a lack of consistent long-term data regarding the American Eel, which impedes effective management of the species, therefore

**Be it resolved** that the U.S. Advisors request that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission work with the appropriate agencies, including, but not limited to, the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission, United States Geologic Survey, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to aggressively begin to build the necessary data sets for effective management of the species and

**Be it further resolved** that the U.S. Advisors request that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urge the appropriate governments (Federal, state, provincial) to restrict, if not prohibit the capture and possession of American Eels at any life stage other than those needed specifically for species research. Governments should also take measures to eliminate other sources of mortality such as mortality from hydroelectric operations and prevention of migration from hydro dams. The restrictions should apply to all waters in the American Eel range.

Resolution 04-09

Submitted by Ed Sander, U.S. Advisor, Lake Ontario

Passed by U.S. Committee of Advisors with comments from Canadian 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.*