



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



Resolution #1: Cormorant Resolution

Whereas, populations of Double-crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) (DCC) have grown dramatically throughout the Great Lakes Basin over the last 10 years due to improved ecological conditions, and protection under the migratory Species Act in the United States, and,

Whereas, the specific factors contributing to the DCC population increase are poorly understood and,

Whereas, studies have documented significant, negative fisheries impacts directly attributable to DCC populations and,

Whereas, the DCC colonies have a negative effect on the flora, fauna, and other wildlife in the ecosystems surrounding their colonies, and,

Whereas, DCCs range widely when they feed, and fishery impacts from DCC colonies may well cross jurisdictions and,

Whereas, uncoordinated DCC management activities, including nest destruction, hazing, egg oiling and culling of adult birds has been initiated in several jurisdictions throughout the Great Lakes Basin and,

Whereas, these actions can be effective in mitigating fisheries impacts in a specific area, they frequently result in redistribution of DCC's shifting their impacts to adjoining jurisdictions and,

Whereas, the formation of new DCC colonies results in fisheries managers across the Great Lakes Basin facing the same issues and challenges that, in many cases, have been addressed elsewhere in the Basin, therefore,

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Be it resolved that the Advisors recommend the Great Lakes Fishery Commission work with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) in establishing a collaborative approach to addressing DCC impacts on Great Lakes fisheries and encourage the IAFWA to address the policy issues associated with management of DCC range expansion, including development of a North American DCC management framework.

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

Passed by Great Lakes Fishery Commission Committee of Advisors, June 8, 2005

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