

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AIR TOXICS TASKFORCE

WHEREAS, the passage of the U.S. Clean Air Act reauthorization is imminent;

WHEREAS, air toxics are a major contributor to pollution in the Great Lakes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United set up a transboundary working group in conjunction with the Zero Discharge Alliance to develop a strategy for implementation of the air toxics provisions of the Clean Air Act and similar Canadian clean air initiatives and strategies for applying the policy of zero discharge to air toxics in accordance with Annex 15 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

by Air Toxics Taskforce

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WATER QUALITY AND GLWQA INTERPRETATION TASKFORCE

BAN CHLORINE IN THE PAPER INDUSTRY

WHEREAS the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes in its Fifth Biennial Report recommended to the parties that Lake Superior be used as a test case "where no point source of any persistent toxic substance will be permitted"; AND

WHEREAS by far the largest toxic point source discharger into Lake Superior is the paper industry which puts massive quantities of organochlorine poisons into Lake Superior; AND

WHEREAS this mass of toxic pollution can be reduced to zero without job loss by banning the use of chlorine and chlorine compounds by the pulp industry; AND

WHEREAS zero discharge of these poisons can be achieved in no other way.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Great Lakes United calls upon all U.S. and Canadian Jurisdictions on Lake Superior to ban the use of chlorine and chlorine compounds by the paper industry on Lake Superior; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Great Lakes United views this as a litmus test issue in determining whether or not political leaders and regulators are willing to comply with the visionary spirit of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; AND

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Great Lakes United supports a ban on the use of chlorine and chlorine compounds by the paper industry throughout the Great Lakes/ St. Lawrence River Basin, throughout North America and throughout the world.

by Greenpeace

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WATER QUALITY AND GLWQA INTERPRETATION TASKFORCE

GREAT LAKES UNITED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STRENGTHENING AND  
PASSAGE OF THE MICHIGAN SCENIC RIVERS ACT OF 1990

WHEREAS, Michigan has outstanding wild and scenic rivers,

WHEREAS, Michigan Rivers are a key to Great Lakes water quality since 40% of the states rivers flow into Lake Superior, 35% into Lake Michigan, and 25% into Lakes Huron and Erie,

WHEREAS, The U.S. Forest Service has already studied important sections of the Pine and the Manistee River and found 188 miles to quality for wild and scenic protection,

WHEREAS, many important Michigan Rivers flow outside of national forest boundaries and need protection,

WHEREAS, the national and state Wild and Scenic River programs are designed to protect threatened rivers and those on private lands,

WHEREAS, Wild and Scenic protection will preserve and in some cases enhance current recreational uses like canoeing, hunting, fishing, and trapping,

WHEREAS, Wild and Scenic status will protect 14 Michigan rivers from damming, excess timber development, and wetland destruction,

WHEREAS, many rivers in the Michigan National Forests qualify for wild or scenic river status,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United and its member organizations support passage of a strong Michigan Scenic Rivers legislation and pass our concerns on to appropriate parties.

by Sierra Club

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WATER QUALITY AND GLWQA INTERPRETATION TASKFORCE

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON GREAT LAKES ANTIDegradation POLICY

WHEREAS, at the 1989 Annual Meeting Great Lakes United resolved:

to call upon U.S. EPA to begin a process that will result in promulgation of legally enforceable requirements specifying how Great Lakes state water quality standards and pollution control regulations should reflect the requirements of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. These requirements should address, at a minimum, achieving reductions in total loadings of toxic substances in the Great Lakes through the use of Great Lakes water quality criteria, Great Lakes antidegradation policies and procedures, and the use of water quality standards to develop pollution controls on all pollutant sources.

WHEREAS, since then, the U.S. EPA has undertaken the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative with the intention of implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement through coordination of the U.S. EPA and State water quality activities by (1) establishing Great Lakes-specific water quality criteria, (2) incorporating the criteria in State regulatory activities and (3) implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement's goal of virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances.

WHEREAS, the current issuance and enforcement of NPDES permits with technology and water quality-based effluent limits cannot prevent increases in loadings of persistent toxic substances due to increases in industrial production or population growth.

WHEREAS, the Water Quality Initiative is considering adopting an antidegradation policy in regards to any increase in discharges of persistent toxic substances and applying that policy as a way to move expeditiously to freeze the total loadings of persistent toxic substances.

WHEREAS, the antidegradation proposal before the U.S. EPA Water Quality Initiative steering committee contains several loopholes that allow polluters to circumvent its intent and increase discharge of persistent toxic substances.

WHEREAS, at the 1989 Annual Meeting, Great Lakes United resolved to endorse the adoption of a Toxic Freeze and further resolved:

that the Toxics Freeze is recognized as only the first step and must be coupled with measures that will reduce the total mass loadings of toxic substances according to a strict timetable.

WHEREAS, there are no economic and social justifications for degrading our nation's water supply,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United supports the inclusion of strong antidegradation procedures as part of the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative. The antidegradation policies and procedures should be used to move expeditiously to zero discharge of persistent toxic substances. Such policies should be implemented in conjunction with efforts such as Lakewide Management Plans and Remedial Action Plans that set clear targets for reducing total loadings of persistent toxic chemicals in regular, enforceable steps to zero. Antidegradation review should be triggered not only by proposed or actual increases above current discharges, but should be also triggered by increases above target load allocations derived from load reduction plans thereby assuring steady progress to zero discharge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United proposes that Great Lakes antidegradation policy be implemented in such a way that:

1. any exception to antidegradation prohibitions be treated as "variances" so that decisions about proposed exceptions are made in a public forum,
2. such exceptions be allowed only after the discharger requesting exception satisfies the following hierarchy of legally enforceable requirements:
  - a) that the discharger has implemented a waste reduction program using the best available waste reduction/pollution prevention techniques,
  - b) that the discharger can prove that no environmental damage will occur and that the proof is corroborated by independent experts.
  - c) that economic and social factors shall not be considered reasons for variances.

by Water Quality Task Force

RECOMMENDED BY WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT GLU SET UP A ZERO DISCHARGE TASKFORCE

A. Purpose

To build a zero discharge movement and constituency throughout the Great Lakes Basin by creating a basin wide Zero Discharge Alliance that includes individuals, grassroots community groups and other pro-environment groups throughout the basin.

1. Support and network zero discharge strategies and programs throughout the Basin.
2. Assist local community organizations.
3. Launch zero discharge campaign.
4. Develop productive and supportive relationship with labor.
  - a. Address displacement and job loss issues.
5. Any other activities suggested by the Taskforce.

Over the next several months, the Zero Discharge Taskforce will develop its terms of reference, the mechanisms for communication and support and a campaign. The Taskforce's objective will be to launch the campaign in the fall with a Zero Discharge Alliance conference with the largest and broadest participation possible.

CHANGES TO RESOLUTION  
changes underlined  
WATER QUALITY AND GLWQA INTERPRETATION TASKFORCE

INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING OF  
THE GREAT LAKES RESEARCH LABORATORIES

WHEREAS, the Reagan and Bush Administrations have attempted to reduce or to eliminate funding of federal Great Lakes research and monitoring activities in 10 successive budget proposals (FY's 1982-1990); AND

WHEREAS, the Administrations have repeatedly argued that research and management of Great Lakes resources is a regional matter and a responsibility of Great Lakes states under the "New Federalism" concept; AND

WHEREAS, Congress has maintained approximately level funding for federal Great Lakes research in the face of proposed Administration cuts since 1981; AND

WHEREAS, the purchasing power of federal Great Lakes research programs has been seriously eroded by inflation as a result of this level of funding; AND

WHEREAS, budget erosion has led to an inability to purchase advanced scientific equipment necessary for state-of-the-art research and to grave understaffing; AND

WHEREAS, the United States is obligated to maintain a viable Great Lakes research program under provisions of the United States-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements of 1972 and 1978 and the amendments of 1987; AND

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission -- the United States-Canada organization empowered to administer the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement -- has termed the budget cuts in research as "short-sighted and potentially dangerous" in its Biennial Reports to the Governments on Great Lakes Water Quality; AND

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes states, through the Great Lakes Commission, have called repeatedly for funding restoration to federal Great Lakes research programs; AND

WHEREAS, while the Great Lakes states have responsibility for intrastate research, they lack the resources and coordination to conduct basin-wide ecosystem Great Lakes research activities; AND

WHEREAS, sound and cost-effective care and management of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River ecosystem can only be accomplished by a strong federal research presence that includes close coordination with Canada; AND

WHEREAS, even though environmental groups, public interest groups, foundations, state and local governments and some corporations have funded some important Great Lakes research, there is an indispensable federal role in research that cannot be ignored and must not be supplanted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United petition Congress to increase the funding for federal Great Lakes research programs because of their losses due to inflation since 1980; these programs include, but are not limited to:

1. NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Ann Arbor, Michigan;
2. EPA's Research Stations at Grosse Ile, Michigan and Duluth, Minnesota;
3. Great Lakes research programs funded through the United States Commerce Department's Sea Grant Program at universities in the Great Lakes Region;
4. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fisheries Center - Great Lakes, Arbor, Michigan
5. NOAA's Great Lakes Research Coordinating Office as specified in the 1987 Clean Water Act.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United support the full annual eleven million dollars funding level authorized in Congress to implement the Great Lakes Amendment to the Clean Water Act.



PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RAPS

WHEREAS, an urban non-point source pollution is a significant contributor to toxic and conventional contamination in the Great Lakes AOC's and is not always adequately addressed in all RAPS; AND

WHEREAS, wetlands can be potentially used as a management tool in the abatement of the effects of urban runoff; AND

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that RAP teams be advised that the issue of urban runoff non-point pollution be appropriately investigated; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that remedial measures be developed in the control of urban runoff and the use of wetlands be considered as an appropriate management tool to prevent further degradation of water quality resulting from urban runoff.

by RAP Taskforce session

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION TASKFORCE

RESOLUTION ON EXPANSION OF THE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM  
TO UNDEVELOPED COASTAL AREAS ALONG THE GREAT LAKES

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are a crucial national resource, comprising 95 percent of the United States' fresh surface water, and providing drinking water for the Great Lakes population; AND

WHEREAS, coastal wetlands help reduce shoreline erosion by slowing waterflow and binding sediment, and provide food and shelter for many types of fish and animal life; AND

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes economy depends on nearshore aquatic habitats, which are spawning grounds for commercially important fish; AND

WHEREAS, water-based recreation and tourism contribute 8 to 12 billion dollars annually to the Great Lakes' economy; AND

WHEREAS, shoreline development contributes pollution to nearshore waters, threatening drinking water supplies; destroying critical habitat such as wetlands and marshes; endangering important fish and bird species; and impairing access to beaches and shorelands for public recreation; AND

WHEREAS, a bill, H.R. 2840 -- the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1989 -- would add to the System 58,000 acres along the Great Lakes, including 153 shoreline miles; AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United urges the United States Congress to act quickly to extend the protective Coastal Barrier Resources System to undeveloped, eligible barriers, such as wetlands, bluffs, dunes and beaches, along the Great Lakes by passing H.R. 2840 in the House and similar legislation in the Senate.

by Coast Alliance

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LEVELS, FLOWS AND COASTAL ISSUES AND  
FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION TASKFORCE

RESOLUTION ON REAUTHORIZATION AND STRENGTHENING THE  
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 encourages states to develop comprehensive coastal management programs meeting federal standards in exchange for federal funding and a say over federal actions affecting their coasts; AND

WHEREAS, the CZMA includes the Great Lakes states as part of the United States coasts; AND

WHEREAS, the CZMA must be reauthorized by the U.S. Congress by October 1990 or expire; AND

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are facing tremendous development pressure which increases the need for long-term, far-sighted coastal management; AND

WHEREAS, Great Lakes resources threatened by unwise development include abundant wildlife and fisheries, important habitat, water quality and shoreline integrity; AND

WHEREAS, Great Lakes resources would benefit from CZMA reauthorization through the reinstatement of the consistency provision and the strengthening of the wetlands and water quality provisions; AND

WHEREAS, Great Lakes resources are critical commercially, recreationally and aesthetically to the Great Lakes Basin; AND

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have federally approved Coastal Zone Management Programs, and the State of Ohio is currently taking steps to join the federal Coastal Zone Management Program; AND

WHEREAS, the CZMA's tools for wise coastal management could be continued and strengthened through Congressional action; AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United urges the United States Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Coastal Zone Management Act prior to its expiration in October 1990; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes states not currently participating in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program take immediate steps to join the Program so that the Great Lakes ecosystem can benefit fully from comprehensive, Basin-wide shoreline management.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LEVELS, FLOWS AND COASTAL ISSUES AND  
FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

TOBICO MARSH AND BAY CITY STATE PARK RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Tobico Marsh is dying from lack of water flow; AND

WHEREAS, there is a need to redevelop the Tobico Marsh as a predator fish-spawning area; AND

WHEREAS, there is a unprecedented need for boat launching sites away from the Saginaw River; and

WHEREAS, there is a need by fisherman to access the walleye fishery in front of Bay City State Park; AND

WHEREAS, the Bay City State Park is located near the I-75 corridor; AND

WHEREAS, the present walleye numbers are expected to be vastly increased; AND

WHEREAS, there is a need for an access site where the needs of fishermen and the rights of private property owners do not conflict; AND

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC support and pursue the development of a PUBLIC boat launching complex at Bay City State Park; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this complex include protective breakwaters providing uninhibited waterflow to and from the Tobico Marsh; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this breakwater be designed to provide fishing sites for the PUBLIC, INCLUDING SENIOR CITIZENS AND HANDICAPPED.

by Saginaw Bay Advisory Council

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LEVELS, FLOWS AND COASTAL ISSUES AND  
FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

RESOLUTION ON INTRODUCTION OF EXOTIC SPECIES INTO  
THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM

WHEREAS, the members of Great Lakes United have long endorsed prevention of the introduction of exotic species such as River Ruffe, White Perch, Zebra Mussel, giant cladoceran, Gypsy Moth and Purple Loosestrife; AND

WHEREAS, they have endorsed research on these organisms and their impacts on natural ecosystems of the Great Lakes, as well as on methods of minimizing or removing these negative impacts; AND

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the member organizations of Great Lakes United encourage provincial, state, and federal agencies and academic institutions to proceed expeditiously with such research; AND

AND BE IT RESOLVED, that these Great Lakes United member organizations request their regulatory agencies to implement, enforce and monitor voluntary and required actions by shippers and other users of Great Lakes resources, to preserve the further introduction of such exotic organisms; AND

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of Great Lakes United organizations, and all users of Great Lakes resources in general, be encouraged to take all appropriate individual actions to prevent the further spread of such exotic organisms in the Great Lakes region.

by National Audubon Society

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LEVELS, FLOWS AND COASTAL ISSUES AND  
FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United maintains its opposition to expansion of water level control structures in the Great Lakes; AND

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the plan of study for Phase 2 of the IJC water level study emphasize identifying responses to water level fluctuations that do not require structural controls such as hazard coastal zone planning and other landuse approaches.

by Levels, Flows and Coastal Issues and  
Fish and Wildlife Protection Taskforce sessions

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LABOR AND ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

WHEREAS: Workers in the workplace are the most exposed to toxic hazards,

AND WHEREAS: Workers, their families, and communities are adversely affected by plant shut-downs,

AND WHEREAS: Changes in process and production designed to achieve zero discharge may significantly affect workers and their communities resulting in job displacement and/or economic hardship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Great Lakes United create the LABOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE to develop strategies to compensate and retrain workers so affected,

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Task Force will work to strengthen and build the alliance between labor and environmental organizations to achieve our common goals.

by Windsor District Labor Council  
Grand Calumet Task Force  
Lin Kaatz Chary

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~~Canada~~  
Emi's Clark  
Daniel Green  
Henry Gickers

~~US~~  
Joe Link Lyner  
Sister Pat Dupro