



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 8 – 2010M**

**Asian Carp**

**WHEREAS**, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, providing drinking water to over 40 million people and serving as the economic base for much of Canada and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the most significant threats to the biological integrity of the resource is invasive species, which have come into the system through a variety of sources over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, over 180 different invasive species are now in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, causing significant ecological and economic damage to the resource and the entire region; and

**WHEREAS**, the most significant near term threat come from three species of Asian carp, known as the silver, bighead, and black carp; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian carp have the potential to disrupt the ecological balance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence by consuming large volumes of the base of the food chain; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian carp were introduced into fish farms in the southern United States over 30 years ago, and have escaped from those farms into the waterways and migrated north in the Mississippi, Illinois, and Ohio Rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian carp have been identified in the Illinois River near the Lockport Dam, only about 40 miles from Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, environmental DNA testing in the Chicago Waterway System suggests that Asian carp may already be in that system and in Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Waterway System has three potential outlets to Lake Michigan in Illinois and another two in Indiana, suggesting that the task of keeping the Asian carp out of Lake Michigan is significant;



**WHEREAS**, federal, state, provincial, and local officials from the United States and Canada have done extensive work over the past ten years to keep the Asian carp out of Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, all those working on the problem have a much greater sense of urgency because of the environmental DNA testing that indicated the presence of Asian carp in Lake Michigan and in parts of the Chicago Waterway System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Attorney General has initiated litigation, which has been joined by several other states and Ontario, against the State of Illinois and other parties, seeking immediate actions to keep the Asian carp out of Lake Michigan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes the extremely serious threat the Asian carp present to the resource and encourage all parties to proceed with a unified effort and the utmost sense of urgency to prevent them from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a series of short, mid, and long term actions be taken to stop the migration of the Asian Carp through the Chicago Waterway System consistent with the Cities Initiative “Statement of Unity” dated February 2010;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the best long-term solution for the health of both the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds is to restore the natural divide between the two. Any solution must take into account the current use of the Chicago Waterway System for storm and wastewater, transportation of commercial goods, recreation and emergency response, along with the commercial and recreational value of the entire Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The search for long-term sustainable solutions must start with a unified, immediate, and significant commitment of resources and to an aggressive timetable. The collaborative development of long-term solutions that will benefit all stakeholders must follow promptly after.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010

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Denis Lapointe, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield