



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

RESOLUTION 9 – 2010M

Invasive Species

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, recent efforts by the United States and Canada to deal with one of the major pathways for invasive species, ballast water, through a requirement for and strict enforcement of ballast water exchange, appears to have reduced significantly the risk of new introductions from vessels; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard has proposed new regulations for ballast water treatment, which have gone through an extensive public hearing and comment period; and

WHEREAS, technology assessment on ballast water treatment, such as the Great Ships Initiative, can be very helpful; and

WHEREAS, a number of states have proceeded with ballast water control regulations that vary from one state to another, creating a difficult regulatory setting for complying with requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has publicly supported comprehensive, uniform, and protective ballast water standards for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has introduced comprehensive national legislation on aquatic invasive species several times over the years to deal with a much



wider range of pathways beyond ballast water, but that legislation has never been passed or become law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon the U.S. Coast Guard to adopt strict, protective, final regulations for ballast water as quickly as possible, and enforce those regulations to further reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced through ballast water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Ships Initiative technology assessment process should be continued, but should not delay implementation of the regulations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament adopt comprehensive legislation that addresses all pathways of invasive species that will reduce significantly the risk of further introduction of such species into the Great Lakes or St. Lawrence.

Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

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