



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



Resolution #6 : Great Lakes Navigation Study

Whereas the United States Army Corps of Engineers is undertaking a review of the Great Lakes Navigation system, including locks, dams, harbors, ports, channels and other related features, to examine the feasibility of undertaking any capital improvements, and

Whereas an ecosystem wide biological assessment, recommended in the United States Fish and Wildlife Services Coordination Report has not been completed, and

Whereas improvements would include dredging of harbors and connecting channels causing re-suspension of contaminants, potential loss of aquatic habitat and potential changes in flow rates and lake levels, and

Whereas year round shipping is a component of the improvements which, in the case of the St. Lawrence River could have ecosystem wide repercussions, therefore

Be it resolved that the U. S. Advisors for Lake Ontario urge the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to take a strong position with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that:

- 1) Comprehensive ecological studies are completed as part of this Review.
- 2) Any improvement projects do not adversely impact the ecosystem or result in habitat loss.
- 3) The design components and outcomes of the Review are consistent with the Lake Level Reference Study for Lake Ontario.
- 4) Dredge materials are removed and disposed of in the most environmentally safe manner.
- 5) The Review addresses the issue of introduction of non-indigenous species into the basin and has an enforceable control process in place as part of the Review
- 6) Comprehensive cost / benefit analysis is completed and give full weight to habitat and ecosystem impacts to be sure that the improvements will be justified.

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

Resolution 01-06

Passed by the U.S. Committee of Advisors, June 5 2001

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.