



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Legislative Caucus

2019 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

*Chicago, Illinois
September 13-14, 2019*

Resolution Urging Additional Research on Nonnative Fish Stocking in the Great Lakes

- WHEREAS,** the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide vital ecological, social, and economic benefits to the citizens of Canada and the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** nonnative fish species prey on and compete with native species for food and habitat and alter the natural ecosystem; and
- WHEREAS,** stocking of nonnative fish may cause genetic alteration through hybridization, and transfer of pathogens and parasites; and
- WHEREAS,** stocking of nonnative fish within the Great Lakes has contributed to the region's commercial and sport fishing industry, valued at an estimated \$7 billion annually; and
- WHEREAS,** invasive species continue to be found within the Great Lakes, and invasive species, habitat degradation, and other impacts continue to threaten the Great Lakes ecosystem; and
- WHEREAS,** an ecosystem that sustains the Great Lakes sport and commercial fishing industry, contains as much of the natural variety of native species and strains as possible, and is resistant to dramatic changes in fish populations is desirable; and
- WHEREAS,** more information regarding the impacts of invasive species, habitat degradation, climate change, nonnative and native fish population interactions, and other environmental factors is needed to enhance our understanding of the Great Lakes ecosystem; and



MIDWEST

WHEREAS, more information is needed to help inform stocking levels of nonnative fish and prey fish to support sustainable native fish populations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) urges the federal governments of the United States and Canada to provide appropriate resources to support research on the impacts of nonnative fish stocking of the Great Lakes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the GLLC requests government agencies as well as research institutions to identify research needs.

Adopted on September 14, 2019.