



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



A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2015 CLEAN WATER RULE

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized and proven that clean water is vitally important to the continued health and success of all species of fish found in the Great Lakes and all its tributaries;

WHEREAS, mighty rivers begin as thousands of tiny rivulets that join to form hundreds of small streams;

WHEREAS, millions of small wetlands provide water fowl and wildlife habitat, stormwater and flood control, and drinking water protection;

WHEREAS, clean water should be the right of everyone, no matter their political inclination;

WHEREAS, the original Clean Water Act in 1972 had the goal of protecting our nation's most precious natural resource, clean fresh water;

WHEREAS, the goal of the 2015 Clean Water Rule is protect water quality nationwide by re-establishing protection to the headwaters of our river systems and to millions of acres of wetlands;

WHEREAS, the 2015 Clean Water Act will help stop pollution at its source rather than allowing it to flow downstream to our great cities and our Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, clean water and abundant wetlands are critical to the sustainable habitat and environmental conditions required to maintain a Great Lakes fishery;

WHEREAS, the 2015 Clean Water Rule clearly states ephemeral and intermittent streams, as well as isolated wetlands, are water bodies that require protection;

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to the 2015 Clean Water Rule would eliminate protection to our rivers' headwaters (millions of stream miles) and millions of acres of wetlands;

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 Ministry of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call for all U.S. and Canadian Advisors, the Commission, and all affiliated agencies submit comments by April 15, 2019, to request that the administration withdraw the new proposed rule and improve the rule to be at least as protective of our nation's waters as the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

Passed unanimously

March 28, 2019

U.S. and Canadian Committees of Advisors

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