



RESOLUTION

MICHIGAN-OHIO-ONTARIO AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES HARMONIZATION PILOT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin is a critical water resource used for recreation, tourism, drinking water, navigation, marine transportation and many other purposes; and,

WHEREAS, responsible use and enjoyment of the Basin requires protecting these waters from the introduction of aquatic invasive species, one of the most significant threats to the economy and ecology of the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, the threat of aquatic invasive species demands international leadership, and a strong commitment to collaboration and communication among regional partners to strategically promote effective policy, legislation, regulation, information and education; and,

WHEREAS, as the gateway for the largest volume of trade in the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world, and the stewards of over 80 percent of the total Great Lakes shoreline, the State of Michigan, the State of Ohio and the Province of Ontario are united in the goal to protect the Basin from the environmental and economic threats of aquatic invasive species; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec created an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to coordinate their shared efforts to combat aquatic invasive species, and in 2014 developed a Mutual Aid Agreement to facilitate cooperative response actions and the sharing of staff, expertise and resources between jurisdictions in the event of detection of a new aquatic invasive species that threatens the region; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario have a long history of successful cooperation to achieve common objectives within the Basin, and have taken strong actions to address the threat of aquatic invasive species.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governors of Michigan and Ohio and the Premier of Ontario commit to develop a pilot project to harmonize approaches to address aquatic invasive species and further cooperation among their three jurisdictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this work will be conducted in collaboration with the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, as a forum for sharing experiences, and to enable future participation from other jurisdictions with an interest in harmonizing efforts to address aquatic invasive species.

Signed this 13th day of June 2015.