



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Legislative Caucus

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

*Wyndham Grand Chicago Riverfront Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois  
September 13-14, 2019*

**Resolution #: 19-2**

**Proposed by: Representative Jennifer Schultz, Minnesota**

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

- 1   **WHEREAS,**           the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide vital ecological, social,  
2                           and economic benefits to the citizens of Canada and the United States;  
3                           and  
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- 5   **WHEREAS,**           nonnative fish species prey on and compete with native species for food  
6                           and habitat and alter the natural ecosystem; and  
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- 8   **WHEREAS,**           stocking of nonnative fish may cause genetic alteration through  
9                           hybridization, and transfer of pathogens and parasites; and  
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- 11 **WHEREAS,**           stocking of nonnative fish within the Great Lakes has contributed to the  
12                          region's commercial and sport fishing industry, valued at an estimated \$7  
13                          billion annually; and  
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- 15 **WHEREAS,**           invasive species continue to be found within the Great Lakes, and  
16                          invasive species, habitat degradation, and other impacts continue to  
17                          threaten the Great Lakes ecosystem; and  
18
- 19 **WHEREAS,**           an ecosystem that sustains the Great Lakes sport and commercial fishing  
20                          industry, contains as much of the natural variety of native species and  
21                          strains as possible, and is resistant to dramatic changes in fish  
22                          populations is desirable; and  
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24 **WHEREAS,** more information regarding the impacts of invasive species, habitat  
25 degradation, climate change, nonnative and native fish population  
26 interactions, and other environmental factors is needed to enhance our  
27 understanding of the Great Lakes ecosystem; and  
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29 **WHEREAS,** more information is needed to help inform stocking levels of nonnative  
30 fish and prey fish to support sustainable native fish populations; now  
31 therefore be it  
32

33 **RESOLVED,** that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) urges the  
34 federal governments of the United States and Canada to provide  
35 appropriate resources to support research on the impacts of nonnative  
36 fish stocking of the Great Lakes; and be it further  
37

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