



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



Resolution 22-05: Marine protected areas and the 30x30 initiative

WHEREAS, in 2019 the GLFC U.S. Committee of Advisors passed a resolution calling for more consultation prior to the establishment of marine protected areas; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 resolution also expressed strong support for habitat improvements to be included in any marine protected area proposal, and

WHEREAS, the 2019 resolution also noted that designation of Marine Sanctuaries and Protected Areas should not weaken the existing jurisdiction of fishery management or regulation, and

WHEREAS, a global initiative aims to protect 30 percent of all lands and waters by the year 2030 (called the “30 x 30” initiative), and

WHEREAS, questions exist about the levels of “protection” that are expected in achieving the 30 x 30 initiative, and

WHEREAS, in some cases, those seeking to achieve the 30 x 30 initiative have interpreted “protected” to mean “closed,” and

WHEREAS, marine protected areas, when formulated properly, could focus on conservation in ways that help in the achievement of 30 x 30 goals, and

WHEREAS, in May 2021, U.S. federal agencies released their “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful” report, which provided initial recommendations for how the agencies might achieve the 30 x 30 objectives, and

WHEREAS, the “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful” report and subsequent 2022 America the Beautiful Challenge, which calls for public and private partnerships to achieve the 30 x30 objectives is generally supported by the sportfishing and conservation community because of its focus on conservation, not protection or closure;

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 indigenous, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, environmental, 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 appointed by the commission.

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Trudeau expressed support for the 30 x 30 Initiative at the One Planet Summit in 2021 and Environment and Climate Change Canada announced Canada had set a target to protect 25% of Canadian lands and oceans by 2025, while working toward 30 percent by 2030;

WHEREAS, as a member of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Ocean Alliance, Canada is working to build support for the 30 x 30 Initiative within the international community; and

WHEREAS, National Marine Conservation Act in Canada is currently undergoing significant revisions yet the process and suggested changes have not yet to be determined.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian and U.S. advisors support the general principles of the 30 x 30 initiative globally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisors believe “conservation” should entail sustainable use and restoration of natural resources –particularly fishery resources—not “closure” or “exclusion,” and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that advisors call for continued collaboration between stakeholders, state, tribal, Indigenous, provincial, and federal agencies to ensure marine protected areas focus on conservation and that they respect jurisdictional authorities in the Great Lakes, all while working toward 30 x 30 goals.

Passed by the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors
1 opposition, 1 abstention
June 1, 2022