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**Invasive Species Control Measures for the Great Lakes
Must be Effective and Must be
Consistent with a Sustainable Development Approach**

Invasive species continue to represent a primary, significant threat to the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Control of biological invasives of all types needs to be a priority element in all policy decisions regarding the Great Lakes.

In addition to grievous ecological harm, invasive species also impact municipal, commercial and industrial facilities. They can disrupt water handling systems and require expenditure of millions of dollars to free equipment of these species. Zebra mussels alone have cost municipalities and utilizes and other relying on water intake structures millions of dollars in system maintenance costs.

Actions to prevent or control aquatic invasive species must reflect the needs of all sectors that rely on Great Lakes resources and remain consistent with the need for continued and enhanced sustainable development within the Region.

Control measures for each biological threat must be developed only after careful review of all implications.

- Recommendations and policies should be consistent with the need for healthy ecosystems, strong social systems, and a robust economy – for the entire Region.
- Control policies and implementation measures for invasive species need to be largely developed at the Basin level for most species with such widespread distribution potential, and then extended to more local jurisdictions for implementation.
- Great Lakes industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities must retain access to water-based transportation routes if they are to remain competitive with other Regions – within North America and indeed the world.
- Current Great Lakes invasive species management is fragmented and restricted in scope within separate Lakewide Management Groups or separate State/Provincial/Federal agencies. A more highly coordinated Regional “home” for the invasive species issue is needed.
- An ongoing, standing binational forum seeking resolution to aquatic invasive species issues should be established. Actions taken within this forum should:

- Maximize use of existing science, identify gaps in the science, and pursue information to fill the gaps.
- Make use of pertinent economic information associated with both the impacts of invasive species as well as potential controls.
- Provide for use of Great Lakes water resources so as to take advantage of the full range of benefits available to the Region's social and economic structure.
- Utilize benefits associated with waterborne transportation relative to reduction of the Region's impacts on climate change and other environmental footprint elements.
- Action should be proportional to the posed threat and the immediacy of the threat and its relative impact potential.

The Great Lakes system is an extremely valuable resource and the Council of Great Lakes Industries remains committed to protect it from all harmful vectors including non-endemic invasive species threats. In so doing however, it is of critical important to enable the ongoing sustainable utilization of the resource for continued support of the Region's social and economic base. The Great Lakes waterway infrastructure is an essential element in attaining the state of sustainability for the Region that we all seek. Thus we need to continue to find solutions that maximize protection of the biological integrity and recreational value of the Lakes while maintaining fluidity in water-related commerce across the lakes.