



RESOLUTION

National Marine Sanctuaries

February 8, 2016

Whereas, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to identify and designate areas of the marine environment as sanctuaries and provide for the comprehensive conservation and management of these areas; and

Whereas, the federal government has designated 14 National Marine Sanctuaries, including the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron; and

Whereas, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary was established in 2000 at 448 square miles and was expanded in 2014 to include 4300 square miles; and

Whereas, in June, 2014 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched a national sanctuary nominating process and encouraged citizens to nominate candidate sites; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has nominated 875 square miles of Lake Michigan waters to be designated as the "Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary; and

Whereas, four New York counties and the City of Oswego are working to nominate a large section of southeast Lake Ontario as the "Great Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary; and

Whereas, Erie County, Pennsylvania has nominated all Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie - a total of 759 square miles - as the "Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary;" and

Whereas, Buffalo area activists are developing a proposal to nominate New York portions of eastern Lake Erie and western Lake Ontario as the "Erie Niagara National Marine Sanctuary;" and

Whereas, in northern Wisconsin and Michigan three marine sanctuary proposals are under development which would engulf almost all U.S. waters of Lake Superior; and

Whereas, the waters of the Great Lakes are a shared resource enjoyed by many users; and

Whereas, the American Great Lakes Ports Association and its members oppose restrictions on the waters of the Great Lakes that may negatively impact maritime commerce; and

Whereas, marine sanctuaries often include restrictions that might impede ship and port operations, and landside development;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the American Great Lakes Ports Association opposes the inclusion of ports, harbors, shipping lanes, privately held waterlots, and dredge material disposal sites, within the boundaries of any proposed national marine sanctuary in the Great Lakes region; and

Be it further resolved, that the American Great Lakes Ports Association opposes marine sanctuary restrictions within any marine sanctuary in the Great Lakes that may limit vessel operations.