



Committee of Advisors  
to the  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission



**Resolution 2025-02: A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ROLE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS  
CANADA IN CONTRACTING SEA LAMPREY CONTROL IN CANADA**

In 2024 the Government of Canada resolved most of a long-standing machinery of government problem, by transitioning from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to Global Affairs Canada (GAC) responsibility for administering the Canadian budget of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. One key component of the transition was omitted -- the transfer of responsibility to contract sea lamprey control in Canada. In the past DFO effectively contracted itself to deliver the control program, as effectively remains the case. This Resolution urges the transition of sea lamprey control contracting responsibility to GAC, which could then contract DFO for delivery of the service.

**WHEREAS**, in 2024 the Committee of U.S. and Canadian Advisors passed Resolution 24-01 “A Resolution Urging for the Transition of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s Canadian Budget Portfolio to Global Affairs Canada “, following on three years of similar Resolutions;

**WHEREAS**, over several years the Canadian Committee of Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission wrote to the Prime Minister about the need for this transition, as did Canadian Commissioners, and in 2024 the Prime Minister issued instruction to implement the transition, which received Privy Council approval in November, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the transition was not as complete as anticipated by the Advisors, given that the funds for sea lamprey control are still transferred directly to DFO, not to GAC for contract to DFO, perpetuating the conflicts of interest and duty that formed the substantial rationale for Resolution 24-01;

**WHEREAS**, the essential problem of sea lamprey control funds flowing directly to DFO, instead of through GAC, is that DFO could alter planning or execution of lamprey control without proper oversight by an independent contractor with funding control;

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing situation in the U.S. highlights the potential difficulty in Canada whereby DFO, as the sea lamprey control delivery agent, could be stripped of essential personnel and financial control for political or other reasons, leaving the Great Lakes Fishery portfolio without the possibility of redirecting delivery funds elsewhere;

**WHEREAS**, a change in the machinery of government for sea lamprey control does not require a legislative change, nor any other extraordinary measures from government;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commissioners of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission negotiate with the Government of Canada to ensure that the funds for sea lamprey control in Canada, are allocated to Global Affairs Canada on behalf of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, for contracting to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or, if necessary, an alternative delivery agent;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors again urge the Government of Canada, specifically the Prime Minister of Canada and the Privy Council, to take immediate steps to complete this outstanding step in the transition of the machinery of government with respect to sea lamprey control to Global Affairs Canada.