Resolution #9: American Eels

Whereas the American Eel is recognized as a species in crisis and in danger of being extirpated from Lake Ontario and

Whereas mortality loss from hydroelectric facilities, habitat loss (including dams which prevent migration), water quality degradation, changes in oceanic conditions and fishing pressure are deterrents to the growth, migration and spawning of the American Eel and

Whereas there is increasing demand by Asian markets and domestic bait fisheries and

Whereas the governments of the State of New York and the Province of Ontario have restricted the capture and possession of the American Eel and

Whereas there is a lack of consistent long-term data regarding the American Eel, which impedes effective management of the species, therefore

Be it resolved that the U.S. Advisors request that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission work with the appropriate agencies, including, but not limited to, the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission, United States Geologic Survey, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Canada’s Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to aggressively begin to build the necessary data sets for effective management of the species and

Be it further resolved that the U.S. Advisors request that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urge the appropriate governments (Federal, state, provincial) to restrict, if not prohibit the capture and possession of American Eels at any life stage other than those needed specifically for species research. Governments should also take measures to eliminate other sources of mortality such as mortality from hydroelectric operations and prevention of migration from hydro dams. The restrictions should apply to all waters in the American Eel range.

Resolution 04-09
Submitted by Ed Sander, U.S. Advisor, Lake Ontario
Passed by U.S. Committee of Advisors with comments from Canadian Committee of Advisors
June 8, 2004