

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 33 (2016/17)

Re: **Supporting Proposed Wisconsin/Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary**

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Great Lakes contain some of the nation's most important natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Governor Walker submitted a successful sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on behalf of the State of Wisconsin and the coastal communities in the proposed sanctuary, and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, based on the sanctuary nomination, NOAA proposed designation of the 1,075 square-mile Wisconsin/Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary which would protect 37 historic shipwrecks and related underwater heritage sites, 18 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places with archival research indicating as many as 80 shipwrecks as yet to be discovered, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin and local communities have invested in documenting, preserving, and celebrating Wisconsin's rich maritime heritage, and

WHEREAS, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System was established in 1972, and today the program serves as the trustee for a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and two national monuments encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters, and

WHEREAS, national marine sanctuaries draw regional, national, and international tourism, impact regional and local economies, and are featured and promoted in national magazines, journals, books, and films, and

WHEREAS, national marine sanctuaries support a wide variety of educational programs to share the history of Great Lakes shipwrecks with the public and promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and

WHEREAS, national marine sanctuaries protect nationally significant resources such as Wisconsin's Great Lakes shipwrecks and support research and documentation to better understand, protect, and increase public appreciation and access to the well-preserved shipwrecks, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Wisconsin/Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary would leverage the investment made by the State and mid-Lake Michigan harbor towns to enhance tourism as a key component of economic development in the State and this region, and

WHEREAS, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national marine sanctuary in the State, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Sheboygan County supports the designation of the Wisconsin/Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary; agrees to partner with neighboring communities located within the Mid-Lake Region; and requests the Governor and Sheboygan County's state representatives in the Senate and Assembly to support the designation of a national marine sanctuary on the western shores of Lake Michigan.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of February, 2017.

Thomas Wegner
Thomas Wegner

ADOPTED 03.21.2017