

# Process to Respond to Advisor Resolutions, Recommendations, and Official Communications *September, 2014*



Canadian and U.S. advisors make recommendations to the Commission from time to time on matters that affect the Great Lakes and its fishery.

Recommendations most frequently take the form of a resolution, though other communications include position statements, press releases, and letters. Not all recommendations can be fulfilled by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, though at times, advisors acknowledge that fact and simply ask the Commission to communicate the advisors' recommendations to appropriate lawmakers, agencies, or other responsible parties.

Under the Great Lakes Fisheries Act of 1956, U.S. advisors have the right to examine and be heard on issues that affect the fishery. Under terms of reference produced by the Canadian Section, Canadian advisors assist the section in making "informed decisions."

Advisors may have matters referred to them by the Commission or they may present matters to the Commission that they themselves deem to be important.

The Commission values input from advisors and remains committed to responding to all recommendations put forward by the committee(s). The Commission and secretariat will strive adhere to the attached process, to the greatest extent possible, to consider and respond to advisor recommendations and to take appropriate action.

**ADVISOR INTRODUCES ISSUES TO COMMITTEE(S)**  
March advisor meeting (during lake committees)

**COMMISSION SEEKS ADVICE FROM ADVISORS**  
March advisor meeting (during lake committees)

Advisor on point drafts resolution / recommendation for inclusion in advisor briefing book for annual meeting.  
By first Monday in May

Advisors debate, amend, and finalize resolution / recommendation.  
June advisor meeting (during GLFC annual meeting)

Advisors formally present resolution / recommendation to appropriate GLFC section(s).  
Section meeting(s) during GLFC annual meeting

Draft included in GLFC briefing book

Is the resolution / recommendation consistent with explicit GLFC policy?

Does the resolution / recommendation require a response from the GLFC?

YES

NO

YES

NO

Secretariat staff takes appropriate action.  
At proper time, though target within three months

Commission discusses the matter and adopts advisor recommendation, in whole or in part.  
June executive meeting

Commission discusses the matter and determines recommendation is at odds with GLFC policy and does not wish to change.  
June executive meeting

Advisors take independent action (e.g., send letter) if they so choose.  
At proper time appropriate

Secretariat informs advisors of GLFC position and actions.  
At proper time, though target within three months.

Is further / ongoing action needed?

YES

NO

Secretariat produces briefing book item.  
**MATTER CLOSED**