

Town of Cooperstown Resolution # 2018-1

Resolution concerning the proposed National Marine Sanctuary on Western Shores of Wisconsin

Be it resolved, that the undersigned members of the Wisconsin Towns Association submit the following concerns with respect to the proposed National marine Sanctuary along the Western Shores of Lake Michigan from Ozaukee County to Manitowoc County:

Whereas, the strength of our Republic is in local governance and the respect for individual property rights;

Whereas, the Federal Government through National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would remove local control of 1,260 square miles of Lake Michigan from Ozaukee County to Manitowoc County;

Whereas, the scope of the Marine Sanctuary would include the high water mark of Lake Michigan, which would impose restrictions on lakeshore property owners and the use of beaches (metal detectors, removal of driftwood, etc);

Whereas, NOAA's possession of the 1,260 square miles of Lake Michigan is irreversible;

Whereas, there are current laws that protect shipwrecks;

Whereas, NOAA has expanded sanctuaries in other locations and may do the same into Kewaunee and Door Counties;

(Note: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron began in October 2000 with 448 square miles and in 2012, was expanded to 4,300 square miles);

Whereas, once the Marine Sanctuary is established and under Federal control (NOAA), restrictions can be imposed on commercial and sport fishing;

Whereas, tourism and promotion efforts surrounding shipwrecks and the use of Lake Michigan can be coordinated via State, regional and local agencies;

Whereas, NOAA may implement permit and fee structures to enjoy activities that there are no current changes;

Whereas, the Federal Government is already trillions of dollars in debt and should not expand into areas now under local control and take on additional debt with costs of operating research ships, federal enforcement agents and vehicles.

Therefore, be it resolved that the undersigned are on record as being opposed to NOAA creating a National Marine Sanctuary on the Western Shore of Lake Michigan and request that the

Governor and other elected officials do the same and keep jurisdiction of Lake Michigan at the State Level.

Be it Further Resolved, that the Town Board of Cooperstown directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Towns Association, our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

Adopted this 13 day of February 2018.

David Blakeslee David Blakeslee, Chairman

Michael Albers Michael Albers, Supervisor

Bill Enz Bill Enz, Supervisor

Fred Lemens Fred Lemens, Supervisor

Pat VanGroll Pat VanGroll, Supervisor

Attest: Susan Kornely Susan Kornely, Clerk

Approved: Feb 13, 2018

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0

Posted: Feb 14, 2018