



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

**A Resolution In Support of the Proposed Expansion of the
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve**

Whereas, The Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee serves to advise the State of Michigan on issues pertaining to the protection of submerged cultural resources in the State waters of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, The Committee is specifically charged to make recommendations with regard to the creation and boundaries of Great Lakes underwater preserves; and

Whereas, The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve is jointly managed by the State of Michigan and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Sanctuary and Preserve is the thirteenth Sanctuary to be established by NOAA, and the first established entirely within state waters, the first in the Great Lakes and the first dedicated solely to a large and important collection of underwater cultural resources that tell the story of indigenous peoples, the settling of the Great Lakes region and evolution of the maritime industry in the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve has ably served to protect and promote stewardship of the submerged cultural resources within its boundaries. Since its formal establishment on October 7, 2000, the Sanctuary and Preserve have educated many thousands of Michigan citizens and visitors about the history of the more than 100 shipwrecks, prehistoric sites and unique geological features; and

Whereas, The Sanctuary and Preserve serve as an important partner and economic driver for the Northeast region of the State of Michigan. The current boundaries for the Sanctuary and Preserve are contiguous, and encompass 448 square miles of submerged lands adjacent to Alpena County; and

Whereas, expansion of the boundaries of the Sanctuary and Preserve would protect and promote additional and important submerged cultural resources; and

Whereas, The Honorable Carl Levin, United States Senator representing the State of Michigan, has introduced Senate Bill 380, which would expand the boundaries of the Sanctuary and Preserve to include the submerged lands adjacent to Presque Isle and Alcona Counties and outward to the international border between the United States and Canada; and

Whereas, The Honorable Bart Stupak, United States Representative for the region that includes the current and proposed new boundaries for the Sanctuary and Preserve, has introduced House Resolution 905, a bill to expand the boundaries of the Sanctuary and Preserve; and

Whereas, The elected officials of each of the counties and communities that border the current and proposed new boundaries of the Sanctuary and Preserve have adopted resolutions in support of the proposed boundary expansion; and

Whereas, the Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve Council has adopted a resolution in support of the proposed boundary expansion; therefore be it

Resolved, by the Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee, that we hereby recommend that legislation to expand the boundary of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, as defined in Senate Bill 380 and House Resolution 905, be enacted by the United States Congress; and be it further

Resolved, that the Michigan Legislature enact the necessary statutory amendments to define the boundary of the Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve to be contiguous with the new boundary of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, once appropriate federal legislation has been adopted; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Congress of the United States, the Michigan Legislature, the Governor, and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.

Signed this 27th day of July, in the year Two Thousand and Nine,



Carol A. Linteau, Chair

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee