



April 7, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman
Chair
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, I write in support of H.R. 1809, the Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act.

The Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) is the biological research center of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the Great Lakes region with a mission to advance scientific research and support the restoration, enhancement, management, and protection of Great Lakes fish and wildlife. The GLSC staff responds to the needs of federal agencies, Great Lakes state and local governments, communities, and Tribes. It provides critical biological and ecological data and analysis that decisionmakers rely on to protect aquatic resources and communities across the region.

The GLSC fisheries science program is foundational for fishery management decisions on all five Great Lakes. After years of underinvestment, the passage of a dedicated funding source under the Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization Act, included within the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-94), served as a critical catalyst for science in the region. It allowed the GLSC to execute a comprehensive, multi-lake, freshwater fisheries science program coordinating its work with other governments so that management is cooperative, efficient, and effective.

This legislation will enable the GLSC to continue its work, building upon its ongoing deep-water ecosystem science, shedding light on biological and food web components, helping us better understand fish movement and behavior, conducting fish habitat investigations, and contribute to invasive species knowledge and management. Moreover, the GLFRA will encourage the GLSC to integrate new technologies for fisheries science into the basin's research and management structure. All critical efforts to the long-term protection of the region's \$5.1 billion a year recreational fishing economy.

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition supports H.R. 1809 and encourages the subcommittee to move forward to marking up this legislation as soon as practicable.

Please feel free to reach out to our Coalition's Senior Program Manager, Alexis Lopez-Cepero, at alopez-cepero@npca.org with any questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Rubin".

Laura Rubin
Director