

COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF MEQUON

RESOLUTION 3491

A Resolution Opposing the Proposed Wisconsin Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has proposed a Wisconsin Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary to protect shipwrecks and "cultural resources"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed sanctuary will control 80 miles of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan shoreline in Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Manitowoc counties extending as much as 20 miles into Lake Michigan and inland to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Lake Michigan; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's authority in the proposed sanctuary would cover 1,075 square miles of Lake Michigan and its shore; and

WHEREAS, NOAA has expanded sanctuaries in other locations, to wit: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron expanded 10-fold from 448 square miles upon its designation in the year 2000 to 4,300 sq. miles in 2014; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's designation of the Wisconsin Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary is irreversible; and

WHEREAS, if the sanctuary is established, NOAA can impose Federal restrictions on any lake-related activity, including but not limited to, commercial and sport fishing; and

WHEREAS, NOAA may impose permits and fees for activities for which none currently exist; and

WHEREAS, the definition of a "sanctuary resource" is so broad and vague as to include almost any object found and virtually any contact or handling of such resource could be deemed unlawful; and

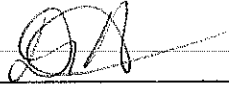
WHEREAS, Wisconsin's shipwrecks have been researched and inventoried for over thirty years by the Wisconsin Historical Society and are currently protected by Wisconsin state and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, NOAA has provided no budget for the sanctuary and is unaccountable to Wisconsin taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, tourism and promotional activities anticipated by NOAA are currently provided by regional, state and local agencies; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that the strength of our republic is in local governance, the respect for individual property rights and the sovereignty of Wisconsin state territory.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned City of Mequon is opposed to the designation by NOAA of a Wisconsin Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary and request the Governor and other elected officials to deny such designation and keep jurisdiction of Lake Michigan under state and local control.



Approved by: Dan Abendroth, Mayor

Date Approved: February 13, 2018

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, at a meeting held on February 13, 2018.



Caroline Fochs, City Clerk