



For Immediate Release
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The Wisconsin Water Alliance today issued the following statement regarding the recent announcement that certain areas along the Lake Michigan shoreline will no longer be subject to potential designation as a federal marine sanctuary:

“We applaud the Governor for seeking a balanced approach in considering the multiple uses of our state’s freshwater resources. Wisconsin has a diverse tourist and industrial economy which is reflected in the many beneficial uses of Lake Michigan, from recreational divers to pleasure boaters, fisherman, commercial shipping, property owners, and beach goers. The potential designation of large stretches of our Lake Michigan shoreline as a federal marine sanctuary would have undercut Wisconsin’s authority to manage one of its most precious resources, jeopardizing our historically balanced approach to protecting and benefiting from the lake. We support the state’s continued protection of the shipwrecks located along Lake Michigan’s shoreline. But adding the duplicative and unnecessary "federal sanctuary" designation would have resulted in a burdensome and ambiguous new layer of regulation from largely unaccountable federal officials. We prefer to keep regulation and oversight of our natural resources close to home.

The Wisconsin Water Alliance congratulates the Governor for protecting both Lake Michigan and our state’s role in ensuring balanced regulations that preserve our natural resources and our ability to have a thriving economy.”

The Wisconsin Water Alliance (www.wisconsinwateralliance.org) is a non-partisan, statewide organization whose mission is to help protect the state’s water resources and advocate for sound water policies that benefit current and future generations of Wisconsin families, cities, businesses, farmers and others. Through reasonable state and local policies, the WWA believes Wisconsin can continue to rely upon its fresh water to help drive the state’s economic engine while at the same time protect this precious natural resource.