

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Submerged Lands Management Conference

### Preamble:

- Whereas: submerged land managers from the United States and Canada have held annual submerged lands management conferences since 1981;
- Whereas: the submerged, sovereign lands managed by the states, territories and provinces are subject to the Public Trust;
- Whereas: these lands historically have been, and continue to be economically and ecologically vital;
- Whereas: the states, territories and provinces have a proprietary interest in these submerged lands unique and separate from their regulatory powers over these lands;
- Whereas: the programs to manage these submerged lands are typically small and managers have few peers with similar responsibilities in their respective states, territory or province;
- Whereas: there are numerous conferences on the subject of coastal zone management and wetlands but no other conferences in the United States or Canada that focus on submerged lands management;
- Whereas: the submerged lands management conference allows participants an opportunity to learn from peers and colleagues, keep up to date on issues affecting submerged lands, and provide a forum for sharing successful problem resolution; therefore

### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Submerged Lands Management Conference is to bring together state and provincial managers who deal with issues pertaining to the administration of submerged lands and adjacent uplands. These issues include, but are not limited to, public trust rights in submerged lands, superjacent waters and adjacent uplands; development extending below the high or low water mark as applicable; use of lands lying beneath waterbodies owned and/or controlled by State/Provincial/Federal governments, and the water column above these lands; relevant coastal zone management, water, air, and land quality issues.

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