



**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Marc Gaden
734-669-3012**

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION TO MEET IN TORONTO, MAY 9 AND 10

***Binational fishery organization to focus on science, invasive species,
and cross-border collaboration***

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission will hold its 63rd annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario on May 9 and 10, 2018. The Commission, which comprises members from Canada and the United States, implements the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, a treaty focused on science, sea lamprey control, and cross-border cooperation. The Commission meeting will highlight critical work conducted during the past year to manage fish stocks of common concern between the two nations. The meeting is also an opportunity for the Commission to hear from stakeholders and fishery managers while also celebrating decades of Canadian and U.S. cooperation on fisheries research and coordinated management of shared fish stocks.

The Commission's annual meeting will take place at the Intercontinental Hotel Toronto Centre, 225 Front Street West, Toronto, May 9 from 1:15 pm to 5:00 pm and May 10 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Members of the media, members of the public, and students are welcome to attend. There is no charge to participate, though attendees are requested to register at <http://www.glfsc.org/annual-meeting.php>.

In Toronto, the Commission also will present Professor Nick Mandrak of the University of Toronto with the Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Ecosystems and will honor the Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University with the C.D. "Buzz" Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships.

"During this annual meeting, we will hear about a variety of important issues that affect the day-to-day and long-term sustainability of our shared fishery" said David Ullrich, Chair of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "We will hear from some of the region's top scientists and managers about native species restoration, sea lamprey control, fish passage technology, and climate change, to name but a few of the topics to be presented."

"The annual meeting is also an opportunity for the Commission to interact with stakeholders from both nations," Ullrich continued. "We are fortunate to have a robust, well-informed, and vocal delegation of advisors who provide the Commission with valuable insights from a wide range of perspectives including commercial fishing; sport fishing; state, provincial, Tribal, and First Nation management; municipal government; conservation authorities; and the environment."

Commission vice-chair Jim McKane added: "The Great Lakes fishery is worth \$7 billion annually to the people of Canada and the United States. This meeting gives us a chance to zero in on what needs to be done to sustain this valuable resource and is our chance to celebrate the decades of bi-national cooperation that has allowed us to benefit so much from the fishery."

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GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

2100 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100 • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1574 • 734-662-3209 • www.glfsc.org