



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2011

Contact: Marc Gaden
734-662-3209 x 14

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS DR JAMES KITCHELL FOR DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Kitchell, of Madison Wisconsin, is recognized for advancing the understanding of fisheries as the Great Lakes food web and ecosystem change

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission last week presented Dr. James Kitchell, a Professor of Zoology at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, with the 2011 Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. Dr. Kitchell was honored for significantly advancing the understanding of food web responses to ecosystem changes, especially in trophic dynamics and fisheries ecology. Through theoretical and experiment research, Dr. Kitchell's work has demonstrated that changes in fish populations can have rippling effects throughout the food web, thereby altering the fish community composition.

The Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems recognizes individuals or groups who adhere to the highest principles of science, for the benefit of Great Lakes ecosystems and the fisheries they support.

“Understanding food web dynamics is one of the most critically important components of fisheries management, as changes in the forage base have direct impacts on the ecology of the system and, in turn, the economy of the region,” said commission vice-chair Dr. Michael Hansen, a professor of fisheries at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. “Dr. Kitchell has greatly improved our knowledge about trophic interactions and the importance of understanding how one change in the foodweb can have effects throughout the system.”

Hansen added: “Dr. Kitchell's research has helped fishery managers make better, more-informed decisions to prepare the fishery for future changes and challenges. As a member of the faculty and Director of the Center for Limnology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, he has maintained a productive and distinguished professional career. With nearly two hundred publications under his belt and having supervised almost forty graduate students and postdocs, Dr. Kitchell is clearly committed to mentoring incoming scientists and sharing his passion for improving ecosystem management through research. The commission was honored to recognize Dr. Kitchell's distinguished contributions to Great Lakes science and management.”

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The commission has the responsibility to support fisheries research, control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes, and facilitate implementation of A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, a provincial, state, and tribal fisheries management agreement.



Great Lakes Fishery Commission vice-chair Dr. Michael Hansen presents Dr. James Kitchell (right) with the Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems s. The award was presented to Dr. Kitchell on June 1, 2011, during the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's annual meeting, held in Milwaukee, WI. Photo: T. Lawrence.