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GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS MARK EBENER OF THE CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY FOR HIS SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREAT LAKES

Ebener now the only two-time recipient of a commission award

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission presented Mr. Mark Ebener of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority with the 2013 Jack Christie-Ken H. Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. Mr. Ebener was recognized for his more than 30 years of work as one of the Great Lakes basin’s preeminent fishery scientists who has led the way for more effective fishery management. In 2002, the commission honored Mr. Ebener with the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Award for his major contributions to cross-border fishery management. With the 2013 presentation of the Christie-Loftus award, Mr. Ebener is the only two-time recipient of a commission award.

The Christie-Loftus Award is named after former scientists Jack Christie and Ken Loftus, who advanced science and understanding of Great Lakes natural resources. Throughout their careers with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, they significantly enhanced fishery rehabilitation, fish community understanding, and conservation of biological diversity.

Mr. Ebener is a fishery assessment biologist for the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority who has also worked as a biologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and as a sea lamprey damage specialist for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The science he conducted over the years has informed many critical decisions supporting lake trout, lake whitefish, and cisco management and recovery in the upper Great Lakes.

Commission chair Mike Hansen, fishery professor at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, presented Mr. Ebener with the Christie-Loftus Award during the commission’s recent annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec. Hansen said “Mr. Ebener has significantly improved understanding of Great Lakes ecosystems and made important contributions to the sea lamprey control effort. He has a singular ability to communicate science to managers, which has for decades guided their fishery management decisions.”

“Few people in the basin have a better understanding than Mr. Ebener about how ecosystems function and about how science should inform management,” Hansen continued. “He conceived the concept of and developed sea lamprey control targets for each of the Great Lakes; targets that were subsequently adopted by state, provincial, federal, and tribal fishery management agencies. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission uses these targets to determine success of its sea lamprey control program. Certainly, Mr.

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

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Ebener's work to improve understanding of sea lamprey wounding enhanced our sea lamprey control program and overall health of the Great Lakes."

Hansen continued "Mr. Ebener has led many research projects that contribute to healthy Great Lakes ecosystems and has communicated science to managers so that information could be put to use. Through his work, fishery management agencies, whether tribal, state, provincial, or federal, have an improved understanding of how fish communities and ecosystems function. His scientific contributions have directly influenced management decisions by all agencies in the upper Great Lakes region."

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 chair Mike Hansen (left) presents Mr. Mark Ebener with the 2013 Jack Christie-Ken H. Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission presented the award to Mr. Ebener on May 28, 2013, during its annual meeting, held in Montreal, Quebec. Photo: T. Lawrence.