



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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

**For Immediate Release**  
**July 24, 2006**

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**Photo: [www.glfc.org/Awards/photos2006](http://www.glfc.org/Awards/photos2006)**

### **Great Lakes Fishery Commission Honours Fisheries And Oceans' David Haight (ret.) For Outstanding Contributions To Sea Lamprey Control**

**ANN ARBOR, MI**—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission presented David Haight (retired) of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada with the Vernon Applegate Award for Outstanding Contributions to Sea Lamprey Control. The award, which the commission presents annually, recognizes Mr. Haight for his efforts in improving communications about the sea lamprey control program, developing outstanding new outreach tools, and exhibiting a passion for protecting the Great Lakes. Haight shares this award with Mr. Jerome Keen of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Mr. Joe Genovese of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Haight, now retired from DFO, conceived and developed the first sea lamprey display for presentation at fishing shows and other venues. "David set the standard for communicating the sea lamprey control program," said Commissioner Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister for Science, Department of Fisheries and Oceans. "He was instrumental in developing an innovative approach to educate a wide range of partners including fishers, boaters and environmentalists about the sea lamprey problem. His approach was to use live sea lampreys to illustrate just how destructive these invaders are to the Great Lakes, and to staff each presentation with sea lamprey control officials from both Canada and the United States to illustrate the binational nature of the control program."

The sea lamprey, a voracious fish-predator, migrated through the Great Lakes in the early 1900s via shipping canals. Originally from the Atlantic Ocean, the sea lamprey attaches onto fish, bores a hole through the scales and skin, and feeds on the fish's blood and body fluids. One sea lamprey can kill up to 18 kgs of fish.

Dr. Watson-Wright continued: "David's energy and innovation has kept a fresh and critical message in the public's eye. David has helped the region's citizens realize how essential it remains to keep this noxious predator under control."

Watson-Wright concluded: "David's work has made a difference -- people and politicians are better educated about the program, and the display receives kudos wherever it goes. The commission is very pleased to recognize David's outstanding contributions to the sea lamprey control effort. Thanks to David, the people of the region understand why sea lamprey control is important to the future of the Great Lakes."

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 coordinate fisheries research, control sea lampreys, and facilitate implementation of the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries. For more information about the commission and its programs, visit [www.glfc.org](http://www.glfc.org). To download a high-resolution photo of Mr. Haight receiving the Applegate award, visit [www.glfc.org/awards/photos2006](http://www.glfc.org/awards/photos2006).

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