



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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

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Great Lakes Fishery Commission Honours Fisheries And Ocean's Jerome Keen For Outstanding Contributions To Sea Lamprey Control

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission presented Jerome Keen 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. Keen for improving communications about the sea lamprey control program, developing outstanding outreach tools, and exhibiting a passion for protecting the Great Lakes. Keen shares this award with Mr. Joe Genovese of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mr. David Haight (retired) of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Mr. Keen, a sea lamprey control specialist, has been involved in expanding communications and outreach about sea lampreys and the devastating affects they have had on Great Lakes fisheries. “Jerome has been instrumental in developing an innovative approach to educating people about the sea lamprey problem in the Great Lakes region,” said Commissioner Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister for Science, Department of Fisheries and Oceans. “Jerome’s energy and innovation has kept a fresh and critical message in the public’s eye. Jerome has helped the region’s citizens realize how essential it is to control these vicious pests.”

The sea lamprey, a noxious 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 added: “Coordinating the use of outreach displays throughout the region has been a unique experience, as Jerome has been traveling with live sea lamprey. This is an effective attention-grabber and tends to draw a crowd. Jerome’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 Jerome’s outstanding contributions to the sea lamprey control effort. Thanks to Jerome, 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. To download a high-resolution photo of Mr. Keen with the Applegate award, visit www.glfc.org/awards/photos2006.

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