



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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

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

### **Great Lakes Fishery Commission Honors OMNR's Phil Ryan For Distinguished Contributions To Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems**

**ANN ARBOR, MI**—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission presented Mr. Phil Ryan with the Christie/Loftus Award for Distinguished Contributions to Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. The award, which the commission presents annually, recognizes an individual who displays exceptional contributions to science. The commission honoured Mr. Ryan for his dedication, service, and implementation of new management techniques using innovative science, particularly on Lake Erie where he worked.

“Phil Ryan began his work at the Port Dover fisheries station on Lake Erie in 1989 as the OMNR’s biologist-in-charge,” said Ontario Assistant Deputy Minister Peter Wallace, the commission’s chair. “By the early 1990s, Lake Erie began to change drastically with the effects of the recently introduced zebra and quagga mussels impacting the lake’s fish species negatively. These species were little understood at the time. However, Mr. Ryan was one of the first scientists to understand that Lake Erie was changing because of these invaders and because of other factors such as reductions in phosphorus loading. Phil led the development and adoption of a Lake Erie Committee position on the state of Lake Erie’s food web and environment.”

Wallace continued: “Phil helped develop and implement the index gill-net and trawl program, in partnership with Ontario’s commercial fishing industry. This program’s success, which provided important information about the lake’s fish community, led to the lake-wide standard assessment strategy and is in part responsible for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources receiving the Institute of Public Administration of Canada’s Gold Award in 1992 for innovative management.”

“In one way or another, Phil was a leader in just about every important element of Lake Erie fishery management,” added Wallace. “Phil either chaired, co-chaired, or participated on numerous committees, such as the Standing Technical Committee, the Statistics and Modeling Group, the Yellow Perch Task Group, the Cold Water Task Group, the Habitat Task Group, and the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference, just to name a few. Phil’s efforts over the past 15 years have made our fisheries resource, and our lake ecosystem, better.”

Among his accomplishments, Phil also led the development of the Lake Erie Fish Community Goals and Objectives, Lake Erie Environmental Objectives, and the Lake Erie Committee’s Lake Erie Ecological Model. These objectives and plans are lake-wide and guide management decisions.

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, visit [www.glfc.org](http://www.glfc.org). To download a high-resolution photo of Mr. Ryan receiving the Applegate award, visit [www.glfc.org/awards/photos2006](http://www.glfc.org/awards/photos2006).