



For Immediate Release
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**GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS DR. ELLEN MARSDEN
FOR DECADES OF HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE, INNOVATIVE, AND VALUED WORK TO
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM HEALTH**

Dr. Marsden, professor of fisheries at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, is recognized for her distinguished work as a scientist and extensive contributions to Great Lakes research

Detroit, Michigan—During the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's 64th annual meeting held recently in Detroit, Dr. Ellen Marsden was presented with the 2019 Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. Commissioner Dr. Bill Taylor, Distinguished Professor in Global Fisheries Systems at Michigan State University, presented Dr. Marsden with the award, noting Dr. Marsden's dedicated research career that has advanced the understanding of large-lake ecology and ecosystem function.

The award is named after Jack Christie and former Commissioner Ken Loftus, two scientists whose visions and contributions advanced the concept of ecosystem management. The award recognizes those who adhere to the highest principles of science and have made major scientific contributions to Great Lakes ecosystems.

In presenting the award, Commissioner Taylor said: "Dr. Marsden's work has, for more than three decades, been on the forefront of science in both the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain basins. Dr. Marsden is most known for her research on native species restoration and the influences of invasive species, but her work has gone much further than that. Her contributions have not only helped the broader research and management communities better understand the dynamics of the changing ecological status of large lakes, but also they determine the key aspects that regulate their structure and function."

Taylor continued: "Dr. Marsden's contributions are, indeed, substantial and decades-long. A dedicated partner of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Dr. Marsden is an expert on fish life history, spawning behavior, movement, habitat use, genetics, and population restoration. She is particularly skillful at conducting research to inform and advance fishery management, serving as a long-standing member of the commission's science program boards, including the Sea Lamprey Research Board and the Board of Technical Experts. Not only does Dr. Marsden conduct state-of-the-art research, she also informs the commission about the direction of research priorities, how research can be applied, and which research projects should be funded.

"Some of Dr. Marsden's most notable accomplishments include unraveling the mystery of how lake trout are able to reproduce in the wild in the face of high levels of thiaminase in their diets," Commissioner

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Taylor stated. “She has also led the way in helping us to understand the requirements for successful lake trout restoration via the use of artificial reefs. Her innovative research on lake trout ecology and population restoration have improved growth, reproduction, and survival of this iconic species.”

Taylor continued: “Dr. Marsden has modeled sea lamprey population dynamics in the Lake Champlain basing using ground-breaking life cycle approaches, yielding important insights for controlling this harmful invader. These insights are important to sea lamprey control on Lake Champlain for sure, but they are also directly applicable to the Great Lakes.

“Dr. Marsden is an incredibly productive researcher with more than 119 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters,” Taylor concluded. “She is a dedicated teacher and mentor, having advised more than 23 graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, in addition to serving on 32 graduate student committees. Indeed, Dr. Marsden’s influence on Great Lakes fisheries sustainability is enormous and well-respected.”

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 Commissioner Dr. Bill Taylor presents Dr. Ellen Marsden with the 2019 Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. The award was presented to Dr. Marsden on May 29, 2019 during the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s 64th annual meeting held in Detroit, Michigan. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC.