



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

For Immediate Release
April 19, 2021

Contact:
Marc Gaden, 734-669-3012

Dr. Cory Brant Recognized for Critical Work in Preserving Sea Lamprey Stories

ANN ARBOR, MI—*Great Lakes Sea Lamprey: A 70 Year War on a Biological Invader*, the recently published book by author and former GLFC fisheries policy specialist, Dr. Cory Brant, was selected as a 2020 Outstanding Academic Title by Choice, the organization well known for its high-quality evaluations of nonfiction academic writing. The prestigious list recognizes outstanding scholarly works “for their excellence in presentation and scholarship, the significance of their contribution to the field, their originality and value as an essential treatment of their subject, and significance in building undergraduate collections.”

Great Lakes Sea Lamprey is the product of a multi-year oral history project undertaken by Brant as part of a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Dr. Marc Gaden of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Dr. Jennifer Read of the University of Michigan Water Center.

The Oral History Project saw Brant traverse the Great Lakes basin and conduct more than 100 interviews with those affected firsthand by the sea lamprey invasion, such as commercial fishers and coastal city residents, and those charged with responding, including biologists, chemists, and elected officials. Brant also collected artifacts, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other archivable materials. Collectively, these stories and mementos provide a comprehensive and compelling oral history about one of the worst environmental catastrophes to befall the Great Lakes and the pioneering spirit and dedication that led to the development of the most successful aquatic vertebrate pest control program in the world. In addition to the award-winning book, the treasure trove of information unearthed by the project is also informing the development of a historical website and feature-length documentary.

The 2020 Outstanding Academic Title recognition joins the list of other high praise *Great Lakes Sea Lamprey* received throughout 2020 and into 2021. In July, the American Fishery Society’s monthly magazine *Fisheries* published [a glowing review](#) of the book noting: “It colorfully explains lamprey biology with a lay audience in mind, and it exemplifies how to communicate science to the public.” In early October, Brant also received the Michigan Historical Society’s [2020 State History Award](#) for his work in the Oral History Project. Most recently, the book was named the University of Michigan Press’s April book of the month, which will conclude with a [virtual presentation](#) and live Q&A with Brant on April 27th.

“The information preserved by Dr. Brant is invaluable to the Great Lakes basin today and in the future,” said Bob Lambe, GLFC Executive Secretary. “The successful sea lamprey control we experience today is the result of an intensive effort by multiple generations of dedicated



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI, 28105

734.662.3209
glfc.org

scientists who made the sea lamprey control program a calling, not just a job. As time passes and we continue to effectively control sea lamprey populations, people tend to forget just how dire the situation was in the mid-20th century. Dr. Brant's work captures the desperation felt in the those first few years of the sea lamprey invasion and elegantly weaves together individual recollections to tell the remarkable story of how innovation, cooperation, and perseverance led to the recovery of the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery that we enjoy today. The Oral History Project leaves a wealth of materials for today's historians and future researchers who seek to understand what we once lost and how we got our fishery back."

Purchase a copy of *Great Lakes Sea Lamprey* from your local bookstore or order a copy online from the [University of Michigan Press](#).

--30--



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI, 28105

734.662.3209
glfc.org