



For Immediate Release
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GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS DR. CHRIS GODDARD FOR HIS DEDICATION TO FOSTERING GREAT LAKES PARTNERSHIPS

Goddard, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is recognized for championing countless connections and relationships within the Great Lakes fishery management community

GRAND RAPIDS, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission honored Dr. Chris Goddard with the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships during the Commission’s recent annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The award, which the Commission presents annually, recognized Dr. Goddard for a lifetime of outstanding, dedicated contributions to conservation and fishery management, for commitment to bridging longstanding jurisdictional challenges in the Great Lakes basin, and for inherent understanding—and willingness to teach so many—of the need for solid and integrated research to inform sound resource management. Dr. Goddard served as the Commission’s executive secretary from 1995 to 2013.

Commission Chair, Dr. Robert Hecky, the McKnight Endowed Presidential Professor in Lake Ecology at the University of Minnesota Duluth, presented Dr. Goddard with the Besadny Award. “This is certainly fitting because when I think of Chris, the first thing that comes to my mind is his ability to establish a special connection with people within minutes of meeting them. That ability has led to the development of many partnerships and friendships, and certainly a respected and effective Great Lakes Fishery Commission. We are indebted to Chris, for bringing so many people together to work toward our shared goals.”

“Chris understood that sea lamprey control—the foundation of the fishery—would only improve if the commission worked harder to leverage resources from partner agencies,” Hecky stated. “In that vein, he advocated for internal processes that would improve working arrangements between all partner agencies and was a strong advocate for directing resources towards public and private research to identify new control techniques.”

Hecky continued: “Chris enhanced the commission’s science program to build the connections necessary to ensure that research dollars would expand and be best used. He was the main driver behind the Commission’s involvement in several highly successful and productive research programs, including the Commission’s contribution to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, that rely on collaborative agreements between various agencies and institutions. These programs have provided critical information to our sea lamprey control and native fish species restoration efforts.

Hecky continued: “Chris also made many contributions to help state, tribal, provincial and federal agencies coordinate their activities, he understood better than anyone that in most cases, agencies could not do their work in a vacuum. Perhaps above all, Chris was a major champion for the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, a voluntary, multi-agency agreement that helps all authorities

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

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implement complementary fishery programs. He worked tirelessly to bridge jurisdictional divides by heightening the stature of, and adherence to, the plan. The vibrant plan we have today is his lasting legacy.”

Hecky continued: “It was his determination and ability to bring people together that aided in the formation of the collective effort to restore Atlantic salmon, the North-American-wide effort to prevent American eels from being extirpated from the Great Lakes, the promotion of collaborative law enforcement that resulted in formal joint enforcement efforts and commensurate regulations to protect lake sturgeon and curb the illegal movement of Asian carp, and the development of international science partnerships in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

“As a Commissioner and fellow researcher, I believe that the modern, effective, and respected Commission we know today – with a strong foundation rooted in science, policy, management and partnerships– is a direct reflection of Chris Goddard’s leadership,” Hecky concluded.

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. Robert Hecky (right) presents Dr. Chris Goddard with the 2015 C.D. Buzz Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships. The award was presented to Dr. Goddard on June 10, 2015 at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s 60th annual meeting held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC.