



March 25, 2013

Dear Commissioners, Advisors, Joint Strategic Plan Members, and Friends of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission:

Chris Goddard has informed me and my fellow commissioners that he plans to retire this summer as Executive Secretary. He does so after more than 18 years of outstanding leadership of the secretariat. Chris' retirement is well-deserved. He is probably the hardest working person I know. During his tenure, he acquired the funds necessary to vastly increase sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes, thereby protecting and improving the basin's fishery resources. He enhanced the commission's science program to facilitate more and better-directed use of research dollars. He heightened cross-border cooperation by continuously improving the Joint Strategic Plan process. He assembled a world-class, multi-disciplinary secretariat staff. And, most recently, he made possible strong commission participation in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. In short, the modern, effective, and respected commission that we know today is a reflection of Chris' management. Chris' tenure at the commission is the culmination of a long and productive career. Before the commission, Chris managed Ontario fishery assessment, fishery research, client services, and remote sensing programmes. He was the district manager of Algonquin Provincial Park and, during a secondment to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, was responsible for Canada's freshwater fishery program, including sea lamprey control. Between now and the end of June, when Chris departs the Secretariat, please take a moment to thank Chris for his tremendous service to the commission and to the Great Lakes basin.

Chris' departure leaves big shoes to fill, and I am extremely pleased to announce that we have found the individual capable of doing so: Robert Lambe. Bob should be well-known to you. He is the director of the Canada-Ontario Invasive Species Centre and the recently retired Regional Director General of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region. He is also the commission's vice-chair. Bob is a visionary, has energy on a par with Chris, possesses natural leadership skills, exercises outstanding judgment, and garners universal respect. As the first director of the Invasive Species Centre, he made that new organization a strong and credible voice for invasive species management and prevention. As regional director general, Bob tackled a diverse portfolio that spanned narwhal management and Inuit land claims in the Arctic to habitat protection and freshwater fisheries in inland provinces. Of course, he also oversaw the highly successful sea lamprey control program and contributed to Great Lakes protection. As a member and officer of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, he has helped manage the program with great skill. The secretariat will be in good hands, and Bob's leadership will ensure the commission's program will continue robustly. Bob and Chris will work together this summer to ensure a smooth transition. Bob will begin his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Secretariat most likely on June 1st, to enable a one month period of transition overlap with Chris.

This time of change is an exciting one. Chris Goddard has built a strong foundation, rooted in science, policy, and management; his legacy is an effective and respected Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Bob Lambe brings deep knowledge and the singular skills needed to lead the commission at a time when our program could not be more important. I am thrilled about the future of this organization!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hansen

Chair

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

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