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Contact: Greg McClinchey
226-980-9193

Great Lakes Fishery Commission to Hold Special Screening of Great Lakes Documentary, *THE FISH THIEF*

The film explores the ecological threat of invasive sea lampreys on the Great Lakes

Milwaukee, WI—The [Great Lakes Fishery Commission \(Commission\)](#) will hold a special screening of the award-winning documentary *THE FISH THIEF: A Great Lakes Mystery* on Sunday, August 17, at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Bayside, Wisconsin.

The event will begin at 1:45 pm, where attendees will have an opportunity to visit informational tables from the Commission and local partners. There, they will be able to experience live sea lampreys and learn more about the ongoing vital effort to restore and conserve the Milwaukee River, Lake Michigan, and other local water bodies. The film will begin promptly at 2:30 pm and will be followed by a panel discussion with subject matter experts. Panelists will include Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper at Milwaukee Riverkeeper; Brandon Gerig, PhD, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and the film's director, Lindsey Haskin.

Narrated by Oscar-winning actor J.K. Simmons, *THE FISH THIEF* takes a journey through time to highlight the herculean effort to find the cause of one of the most significant ecological crises in the history of the Great Lakes. Scientists urgently searched for an answer to the mystery, eventually identifying the invasive sea lamprey as the source of the environmental woes. The impact of the sea lamprey's invasion reverberated across the region, ruining industries and economies on both sides of the U.S./Canada border and degrading a Great Lakes way of life. In response, a dedicated group of international scientists, policymakers, and conservationists worked together to tackle the environmental crisis head-on. Their efforts helped alter the trajectory of the Great Lakes, and their discovery still influences the region's economy and ecosystem today.

"We thank the hard-working individuals who dedicated themselves to finding a way to control the invasive sea lamprey. Without those pioneers, the Great Lakes fishery would not be the world-class resource that it is today," said Ethan Baker, chair of the Commission. "This film details their stories and gives a firsthand perspective of the devastating impact sea lampreys had on the Great Lakes and the relentless pursuit of scientists to figure out a means of control. Never before have we had such a detailed history of all that led to the formation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the sea lamprey control program. This film tells our history and also reminds us that our commitment must not waver; the future of the \$5.1 billion fishery depends on it."

Coming as a result of nearly eight years of extensive research and production, this incredible documentary captures the heart of the Great Lakes region and the people who live, work, and recreate there. Director Lindsey Haskin and his team traversed across two nations to work closely with Indigenous communities, biologists, historians, anglers, conservationists, and environmental agencies to chronicle the struggle of restoring balance to the ecosystem.

“THE FISH THIEF is a testament to the strength and determination of those who refused to give up on the future of the Great Lakes,” said *THE FISH THIEF* Writer/Director/Producer Lindsey Haskin. “I grew up in the Great Lakes region, where fishing is an integral part of life, so this story is deeply personal to me. I wanted to show how people from different sectors and communities could come together—despite political, cultural, and economic divides—to preserve an ecosystem that benefits us all. Their stories are important not only as a history of the region, but as inspiration to continue protecting our precious resource.”

THE FISH THIEF has been showcased at numerous regional, national, and international film festivals, earning multiple awards along the way. Distributed by [The Film Sales Company](#), the film is available to stream or rent on Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon Prime, Google Play, YouTube, and Tubi.

To learn more about the film, please visit [TheFishThief.com](#).

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About THE FISH THIEF:

THE FISH THIEF: A Great Lakes Mystery, produced by [SkyhoundMedia](#), is a captivating documentary that delves into the battle to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. Narrated by Oscar-winner J.K. Simmons, the film brings together breathtaking visuals and expert insights to reveal the ecological stakes of preserving the world’s largest freshwater ecosystem. SkyhoundMedia, dedicated to creating impactful documentaries on nature and culture, offers a unique environmental perspective affecting millions.



About the Great Lakes Fishery Commission:

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 the implementation of A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, a provincial, state, and Indigenous fisheries management agreement. To find out more, visit: <https://www.glfc.org>.