

RECIPIENTS OF GLFC AWARDS

YEAR	AWARD	RECIPIENT	REASON
2026	Christie/Loftus	Michael Jones	For extensive, timely, continual, forward-thinking, and skilled contributions across all lakes and myriad issues throughout an illustrious career. For dedication to bridging ecological science and fisheries management, and unmatched ability to take complex, uncertain concepts and make the underlying science understandable, relevant, and as accurate as possible to managers and the public.
	Besadny	Karen Murchie	For extensive work in elevating sucker research in the Great Lakes basin, directing volunteer-led data collection on fish migration phenology across three Great Lakes states, engaging non-traditional stakeholders in fisheries research, connecting myriad audiences, and leveraging extensive training and knowledge to continue advocating for the betterment of the Great Lakes ecosystem.
	Applegate	Shawn Nowicki	For your exceptional leadership throughout a 30-plus-year career, particularly for dedication to building and nurturing relationships with Indigenous partners and expertise in meaningfully engaging about sea lamprey control operations on Indigenous lands and territories, all of which directly contributed to the success of sea lamprey control and the restoration of lake trout in Lake Superior.
2025	Christie/Loftus	Margaret Docker	For exemplary contributions to Great Lakes science, including more than two decades of research advancing new sea lamprey control methods, improving assessment methods, and strengthening the knowledge of lamprey biology; for service on many Commission boards and committees; and for editorship of two major monographs on lampreys.
	Besadny	Tammy Newcomb	For her instrumental, long-term work to develop, negotiate, and implement a major multi-agency partnership resulting in real actions to address the risk of invasive carp entering the Great Lakes, and for decades of scientific and management expertise in all matters related to the shared Great Lakes fishery.
	*Commission's Commendation	Chris Vandergoot	For his devoted career focused on fostering and strengthening enduring partnerships among myriad fishery management agencies, research-based organizations, and stakeholders for the betterment of Great Lakes fisheries, and for his enthusiastic leadership to advance the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS).
2024	Christie/Loftus	Chuck Madenjian	For decades of contributions to Great Lakes science, including research covering a broad range of subject matter, more than 120 peer-reviewed articles, and an unparalleled level of collaboration with state, federal, provincial, tribal, international, and university scientists and practitioners.
	Besadny	Don Arcuri	For dedication to the Committee of Advisors; for long-term, constructive participation in the LEPMAG process; for contributions to policies that protect and improve Great Lakes ecosystems; and for generous and valued volunteer work to communicate the Commission's programs.
	Applegate	Tim Sullivan	For developing streamside flow-through toxicity tests that are widely used throughout the program, for improving liquid chromatography Bayluscide analysis, and for a dedicated career in the Sea Lamprey Control Program resulting in significant reductions in sea lamprey abundances in lakes Michigan, Huron, and Erie.
2022	Christie/Loftus	Tim Johnson	For a long and distinguished career of exceptional work in the development of multi-species food web models that explore the dynamics of aquatic ecosystems including the role of spatial and temporal heterogeneity, predator-prey dynamics, energetic and physiological constraints, and compensatory responses.

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	Besadny	Frank Krist	For serving as an outstanding citizen leader in the management of Lake Huron for more than 25 years; for his dedicated efforts to form and sustain partnerships with citizens and managers alike.
	Applegate	Rob MacLaughlin	For calm and effective steerage of the Sea Lamprey International Symposium III, which ensured that the science discussed, the perspectives shared, and the collaborations initiated at the symposium will have a positive influence on sea lamprey control well into the future; for outstanding service as a GLFC-PERM scientist and for many scientifically rigorous contributions to the sea lamprey control program.
2019	Christie/Loftus	Ellen Marsden	For decades of highly productive, innovative and valued work to understand and improve the Great Lakes fisheries; for singular contributions to Great Lakes research and science; and for unrivaled expertise in fisheries ecology/management, particularly lake trout and sea lamprey, which has significantly improved Great Lakes ecosystem health.
	Besadny	The Saugeen Ojibway Nation	For the partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, during 2015 – 2018, to rehabilitate Denny’s Dam on the Saugeen River – an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Department of Fisheries and Oceans jointly-funded project, designed to protect the Lake Huron fishery.
	Applegate	Steve Lapan	For outstanding support of the Sea Lamprey Control Program during the past 23 years in his home agency, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Lake Ontario Committee and the Council of Lake Committees.
2018	Christie/Loftus	Nick Mandrak	For distinguished work as a scientist specializing in the biodiversity and ecosystem health of Great Lakes fishes; for being at the forefront of investigating invasive species impacts on Great Lakes ecosystems and for excellence in more than 150 publications, government reports, and COSEWIC reports, and 3 books.
	Besadny	MSU QFC	For outstanding work to enhance the understanding of Great Lakes fisheries by emphasizing the use of quantitative tools in teaching, outreach, and research; for serving as a trusted partner and a recognized leader both within and outside the Great Lakes basin.
2017	Christie/Loftus	Michael Hansen	For his profound knowledge of Great Lakes fisheries science, for his numerous peer-reviewed publications that have driven Great Lakes fishery restoration, for his service as an instructor and a mentor to thousands of undergraduate students and more than 50 graduate students, and for singular, career-long, professional efforts to improve the health and sustainability of Great Lakes fisheries ecosystems and the communities they support.
	Besadny	Mark Holey	For fostering partnerships to satisfy the immediate fishery research and management needs of the upper Great Lakes and, on his own volition, for committing his time and that of his staff to initiate deepwater coregonid re-introduction in Lake Ontario.
	Applegate	Paul Sullivan	For championing the sea lamprey control effort as a valued employee of the Sea lamprey Control Program whose dedication, hard work, and mentorship has significantly contributed to its success.
2016	Christie/Loftus	Charles Krueger	For a highly productive science-based management-focused career that expanded our ecological knowledge of Great Lakes fishery resources. As a U.S. Commissioner, he served as Vice-chair, Chair, and U.S. Section Chair. As Science Director, the expanded board membership and targeted innovative research themes; emphasizing transformative research.
	Besadny	Suzette Kimball	For singular determination to revitalize the U.S. Geological Survey’s Great Lakes large-vessel program and for strengthening the long-standing partnership between the Council of Lake Committees and the USGS, thus ensuring an effective fisheries science program that meets partner needs through USGS investments in facilities, staff, and improved communications.

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	Applegate	Bob Adair	For masterfully leading the U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program from 2007-2015; for coordinating efforts of approximately 100 FWS employees working across 5 Great Lakes and in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and for outstanding work to drive sea lamprey populations to the lowest levels they have been in decades.
2015	Christie/Loftus	Mohamed Faisal	For establishing a dynamic, responsive and extremely productive aquatic animal health program, with research tailored to the emerging needs of the Great Lakes basin, and for outreach to ensure that new discoveries are widely shared and available to managers.
	Besadny	Cameron Davis	For exceptional leadership in coordinating Great Lakes policy and funding initiatives valued at more than \$1 billion, and for remarkable efforts building partnerships among multiple federal, state, municipal, tribal, and civic stakeholders throughout the basin.
	Besadny	Chris Goddard	For significant contributions to conservation and fishery management throughout his thirty-plus-year career with the Province of Ontario, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and as a consultant. For his professional philosophy of combining solid scientific information with human needs and goals. For bridging jurisdictional divides by heightening the stature of and adherence to A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.
	Applegate	Rod McDonald	For outstanding work in advancing lampricide treatment techniques, for fostering significant advances in adult assessment, and for using cutting-edge science to improve the design and deployment of traps.
2014	Christie/Loftus	James Johnson	For decades of work to advance lake trout restoration, for working closely with fishery managers and interagency partners to foster progress, and for applying science in a practical manner to make progress on fish community goals.
	Besadny	John Jackson	For tireless commitment to uniting the environmental non-governmental community and to developing effective communication with officials in Canada and the United States, and for providing strong leadership on the Canadian Committee of Advisors.
	Besadny	Jennifer Nalbone	For outstanding work to combat invasive species, to restore biodiversity, and to support the health of the Great Lakes fishery and for steadfast leadership to the United States Committee of Advisors.
	Applegate	Ellie Koon	For advancing sea lamprey control by developing and overseeing the U.S. sea lamprey barrier program for 10 years and by planning, implementing, leading, and improving lampricide applications to control invasive sea lampreys for 19 years.
2013	Christie/Loftus	Mark Ebener	For science supporting most of the critical decisions behind lake trout, whitefish, and cisco management and recovery in the upper Great Lakes; for improving the understanding of Great Lakes ecosystems, and for applying science to sound fishery management.
	Besadny	John Robertson	For embracing ecosystem management principles while leader of the MIDNR Fisheries Division and for vision in engaging Great Lakes fishery managers from the region to work toward shared fishery management goals.
	Applegate	Brad Young	For work ensuring successful and innovative sea lamprey control treatments throughout the Lake Champlain and Great Lakes basins; for continually connecting with stakeholders to communicating lamprey control successes; and for being an invaluable leader for protecting Lake Champlain and Great Lakes fisheries through steadily reducing sea lamprey populations.
2012	Christie/Loftus	Jim Bence	For large-scale research projects to understand food-web and population dynamics in each of the Great Lakes, which has helped agencies manage Great Lakes fish populations.
	Besadny	Peter Johnson	For fostering myriad partnerships among the states, provinces, other governments, and partners to promote sustainable water management, resulting in the enactment of robust, legal protections for Great Lakes water and partnerships.

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	Besadny	Scudder Mackey	For approaching the commission with a creative idea--to manipulate water flows in the St. Marys River to better understand sea lamprey trapping and the effectiveness of the sterile-male-release-technique. Also, for facilitating the development of this project, which received funds from the GLRI and was carried out by the GLFC and its partners.
2011	Christie/Loftus	James Kitchell	For a distinguished career of teaching and conducting research in the Great Lakes basin. Specifically, his research regarding food web responses to ecosystem changes, trophic cascades, and fish bioenergetics has contributed to healthy Great Lakes ecosystems through improved fishery management decisionmaking.
	Besadny	Robert MacGregor	For leading efforts to protect and restore the American eel in Lake Ontario and throughout its range by coordinating with federal, state, provincial, and industry interests in new and effective partnerships extending beyond the Great Lakes.

2010	Besadny	Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters	For organizing a highly successful partnership involving multiple government agencies and the private sector to restore native Atlantic salmon to Lake Ontario.
	Besadny	Dennis Grinold	For his lifelong commitment to protecting and enhancing the Great Lakes fishery.
	Besadny	Andy Buchsbaum	For tireless energy in reaching out to interests that in the past have been assumed—often incorrectly—to be antithetical to Great Lakes protection, and for strong advocacy for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
2009	Besadny	Mike Ryan	For a tireless commitment to protecting and enhancing the resources in the Great Lakes and for fostering partnerships among sport fishing groups, businesses, and industry.
	Applegate	Robert Young	For providing positive leadership while continually challenging conventional sea lamprey management techniques and for helping create and refine clear management goals and methods for sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes.
	Loftus/Christie	John Casselman	For myriad contributions as a researcher, mentor, and leader, and for coordinating multi-national projects and pursuits to understand fish populations and their production through age and growth data, and using this information to understand the effects of climate change on fisheries and exotic species invasions and impacts.
2008	Besadny	Russ Piper	For helping the Ontario government bridge the ideological gap between sports fishers and commercial fishers and for leadership in land conservation practices that influence water quality and fish communities in Lake Erie.

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	Besadny	Jack Wingate	For developing, reviewing, and sponsoring state and tribal proposals under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act from 1998-2006.
	Loftus/Christie	Jan Ciborowski	For innovative leadership in the Lake Erie Millennium Plan to define and understand Lake Erie's most pressing problems, to propose solutions, and to track results. Also, for his ongoing pursuits and projects in assessing indicators of ecological health in the Great Lakes coastal region using fish and invertebrates as barometer.
2007	Besadny	John Cooley	For career-long contributions to Great Lakes science and management, for his work in building bi-national partnerships, and for support for the Partnership in Ecosystem Management Program.
	Applegate	Jean Adams	For providing statistical support and scientifically sound analyses to most every professional member of the Sea Lamprey Control Program in both countries.
	Loftus/Christie	Gary Isbell	For career-long efforts to improve the fishery, to prevent invasive species, to advance sea lamprey control, to improve habitat, and to support the Joint Strategic Plan process.

2006	Besadny	Henry Buffalo Sr. Richard Gurnoe	For their commitment, as reflected in the internal and external organizations that they created, to bring tribal government to the Joint Strategic Plan process. (Both recipients are deceased.)
	Applegate	Joe Genovese David Haight Jerome Keen	For efforts above and beyond their duties to keep the public, the media, and politicians informed about the sea lamprey control program.
	Loftus/Christie	Phil Ryan	For outstanding work to convey and incorporate rapidly emerging and complex ecological processes into practical fisheries management.
2005	Besadny	Allegra Cangelosi Joy Mulinex	For building new partnerships including partnerships with the Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife Service and for legislative advocacy for restoration of the Great Lakes.
	Applegate	John Heinrich	For his many outstanding contributions to the sea lamprey control program, including contributions to research, adult assessment, larval assessment, and the sterile-male-release-technique.
	Loftus/Christie	Ed Mills	For his scientific leadership, for his work to strengthen the ecosystem approach to science and fisheries management, and for his many contributions to Great Lakes research.
2004	Besadny	Dick Reuss	For his leadership as U.S. advisor, for work to revitalize the committee, for his steadfast support for the commission and its vision, and for his contributions to the success of the fishery.

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	Applegate	Mike Jones	For his outstanding work in organizing the SLIS II symposium and preparing the papers for publication.
	Loftus/Christie	Phil Moy	For tireless leadership in the effort to prevent the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.
2003	Besadny	Kevin Ramsey Bill Lafferty 9th Coast Guard	For developing new law enforcement partnerships
	Applegate	Roger Bergstedt Doug Cuddy Mike Fodale	For development, implementation, and assessment of the highly successful sea lamprey control effort on the St. Marys River.
	Loftus/Christie	Randy Eshenroder	For contributions to the restoration of Great Lakes fish species.

2002	Besadny	Mark Ebener	For his outstanding contributions to the lake committees and lake technical committees.
	Applegate	Dorance Brege Wayne Westman	For years of dedicated service to the sea lamprey control program
	Loftus/Christie	Tom Gorenflo Mark Holey Kelley Smith	For their successful negotiation of the Tribal Fishing Agreement between the State of Michigan and the Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority.
2001	Besadny	Ed Makauskas	For long-time service as an advisor, for his leadership on the Committee of Advisors, and his work to secure funding for sea lamprey control.
	Applegate	Vic Gillman	For his contributions to the sea lamprey program throughout the 1990s and for help in developing the St. Marys River control strategy.
2000	Besadny	Dennis Hickey & Comm. Fishing Industry	For outstanding personal contributions to the protection of the Great Lakes fishery and in recognition of the commercial fishing industry's many partnerships with management agencies.

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	Applegate	Mike Twohey	For development and successful implementation of the innovative sterile-male-release-technique for sea lamprey control.
	Loftus/Christie	Ed Crossman	For his adherence to the highest principles of science in dedicated service to the long-term protection of the Great Lakes ecosystem.