

## PREFACE

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is pleased to publish 'A guide to integrated fish health management' and wishes to express its thanks to the member agencies of the Commission for their efforts. Credit for this valuable contribution to fish disease control belongs to the members of the Great Lakes Fish Disease Control Committee (GLFDCC) and, in particular, to Jim Warren, the committee chairman, Fred Meyer and Tim Carey who have skillfully guided this project to completion.

Because fish cultural activities are an important element in the rehabilitation of the Great Lakes fishery, the Commission established the GLFDCC in 1973 to recommend measures to protect the health of cultured and native fish populations. In 1975, the Commission adopted recommendations from the GLFDCC and issued a fish disease control policy and model program. The model program coordinates public and private efforts to reduce infectious disease losses in hatcheries, helps reduce the spread of fish diseases in the Great Lakes basin, and helps to prevent the introduction of new diseases into the basin. However, the model program was not designed to provide specific, detailed information on the methods to be used to prevent or control serious fish diseases. Additional information was needed on topics ranging from hatchery water supplies and facility design, to disease eradication procedures and cooperative fish health management programs to fill out the framework of the model fish disease control program. Such a compendium was needed to place information from many scattered sources within the reach of resource administrators, fish culturists, fish pathologists, students and interested lay people.

With confidence and enthusiasm, the GLFDCC set forth in April 1981 to develop the needed compendium. From the beginning it was agreed that the committee would not attempt to prepare a definitive text on fish health management. On the other hand, the compendium was to be an integrated structured guide to the implementation of fish health programs at all operational levels in the Great Lakes basin and elsewhere. The project has contributed significantly to the cooperative spirit and unity of the GLFDCC and its member agencies. The Commission is grateful to the contributors whose efforts made the completion of this compendium possible, and to the many experts in the USA and Canada who commented on individual contributions as part of the peer review process required for Commission publications.

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