



**For Immediate Release
June 26, 2017**

**Contact: Dr. Marc Gaden
734-669-3012**

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS PAUL SULLIVAN FOR CHAMPIONING THE SEA LAMPREY CONTROL PROGRAM WITH DEDICATION, HARD WORK, AND MENTORSHIP

DULUTH, MINNESOTA—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission presented Mr. Paul Sullivan with the 2017 Vernon C. Applegate Award for Outstanding Contributions to Sea Lamprey Control. The award, which the Commission bestows annually, recognized Mr. Sullivan for outstanding dedication, hard work, and mentorship to the Sea Lamprey Control Program, for which he has served for more than 40 years.

The successful sea lamprey control program—which keeps the population of the invasive sea lamprey, a destructive Great Lakes invader, to manageable levels—is critical to protect the \$7 billion fishery. The Applegate Award, presented annually by the Commission, is named after the father of sea lamprey control, Dr. Vernon Applegate, who was perhaps best known for his exemplary dedication to the control program. Commissioner Tracey Mill, the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s Provincial Services Division, presented Mr. Sullivan with the Applegate Award at the Commission’s 62nd annual meeting earlier this month in Duluth, Minnesota.

“For the entirety of his career, Mr. Sullivan has dedicated himself to the mission of protecting the Great Lakes through unwavering control of sea lampreys,” said Commissioner Mill. “Mr. Sullivan is the Division Manager for Fisheries and Oceans Canada at the Sea Lamprey Control Centre in Sault Ste. Marie where he oversees the implementation of the Canadian portion of the control program—a massive undertaking and a major responsibility.”

Mr. Sullivan began his career with the control program as a summer student in 1977 and joined Fisheries and Oceans Canada full-time in 1983. His management tenure at the Sea Lamprey Control Centre started began in the early 2000s, with Mr. Sullivan serving first as Section Head of the Treatment and Barrier Units and then as Division Manager.

Mill continued: “For nearly a decade now, Mr. Sullivan has brought his extensive knowledge, practical experience, and unique leadership approach to the Centre. He expects a lot from his staff and his colleagues, but never more than he is willing to give himself. The dedicated staff that carry out the sea lamprey control program share a clear bond with Mr. Sullivan and the control program is stronger because of his leadership.”

Mill continued: “Mr. Sullivan is a consummate professional, quick to pitch in when there is a need for critical thinking or hard work. When morale needs a boost, folks can count on Mr. Sullivan’s unwavering wit, distinct approach to problem-solving, and unwillingness to give up to re-energize them.”

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

2100 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100 • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1574 • 734-662-3209 • www.glfc.int

“Mr. Sullivan truly epitomizes the sea lamprey control program and everything it stands for,” Mill added. “One example that illustrates his critical role in our program is the recent challenge with sea lamprey control in Lake Erie. Not long ago, sea lamprey populations in Lake Erie were at historic highs. Mr. Sullivan’s vast knowledge of the lampricide treatment and assessment programs brought a new and appropriate focus to Lake Erie sea lamprey control effort such that lamprey abundances are now on a steep decline. There are many, many more examples like this that demonstrate what a forward thinker and strategic visionary Mr. Sullivan truly is.”

“Mr. Sullivan believes in the mission of the Commission and the sea lamprey control program, he appreciates that what we do makes a difference, and he does his job with the utmost of integrity,” Mill concluded. “We are fortunate to have him as part of the leadership of the Sea Lamprey Control Program.”

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 Tracey Mill (right) presents Paul Sullivan with the 2017 Vernon C. Applegate Award Jack Christie/Ken H. Loftus Award for Outstanding Contributions to Sea Lamprey Control. The award was presented to Mr. Sullivan on June 7, 2017, during the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s annual meeting, held in Duluth, Minnesota. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC.