



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SCIENCE DIRECTORATE LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

ANN ARBOR, MI—As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's (Commission) Science Program, the Commission is announcing leadership changes within its Science Directorate, effective October 1, 2026.

Under the new structure, Dr. Andrew Muir, currently serving as Science Director, will transition to the newly established role of Chief Scientist, while Dr. Dan Zielinski, currently Principal Engineer & Scientist for FishPass, will assume the role of Science Director.

The leadership transition follows recommendations from an external program review that identified creating a senior scientific leadership position as an important opportunity to expand scientific capacity, foster greater collaboration across programs, and support the growing scope of the Commission's science activities. The Chief Scientist role aligns with responsibilities envisioned in the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries and reflected in the Commission's recently revised Strategic Vision.

"These changes position the Science Directorate to better meet the needs of the Commission today and into the future," said Dr. Marc Gaden, Executive Secretary. "This restructuring reflects our commitment to strengthening scientific leadership, enhancing collaboration with partners, and ensuring our science program continues to address the complex fisheries challenges facing the Great Lakes."

Dr. Muir has led the Commission's science program for the past 13 years, overseeing significant modernization efforts and helping expand the program's impact throughout the Great Lakes basin. Widely recognized as a leading expert on Great Lakes native fish species, he has played a central role in advancing fisheries science and restoration efforts across the region.

"Andrew has been truly outstanding in the way he has grown and directed the science program," said Dr. Gaden. "His passion is researching native species in the Great Lakes, and his new role will allow the Commission to continue advancing scientific understanding and supporting restoration efforts throughout the basin."



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Dr. Zielinski brings extensive experience in applied research, engineering, and program leadership through his work with FishPass. Since joining the Commission, he has helped advance one of the world's most innovative fish passage and selective fish movement research initiatives.

"As FishPass moves from construction into long-term research and operations, the responsibilities of the Principal Engineer and Scientist will evolve to a more strategic management role," explained Dr. Gaden. "Dan has served the Commission exceptionally well in his role with FishPass, and we are fortunate he is willing to take on this new leadership role in our science program," concluded Dr. Gaden.

This restructuring is intended to emphasize the Commission's scientific capacity, support the growing needs of the science program, and ensure the Commission continues to deliver world-class fisheries science while maintaining a rigorous, innovative, and impactful research program at FishPass.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission invites partners, stakeholders, and colleagues throughout the basin to join in welcoming Dr. Muir and Dr. Zielinski to their new roles.

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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 promote measures that protect and improve the multi-billion-dollar Great Lakes fishery. Visit online at www.glfc.org



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