



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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DR. MARC GADEN TO RECEIVE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY FISHERIES CONSERVATION AWARD

COLUMBUS, OH – The American Fisheries Society (AFS) will honor Dr. Marc Gaden, Executive Secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), with the 2026 AFS President's Fisheries Conservation Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to fisheries conservation through leadership, scientific advancement, policy development, education, and international collaboration.

Dr. Gaden has dedicated more than three decades to protecting and restoring Great Lakes fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. As Executive Secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission—a binational organization established by treaty between Canada and the United States in 1955—he works at the intersection of science, policy, and international governance to advance sustainable fisheries management and conservation.

A Michigan native, Dr. Gaden earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2007 and is widely recognized as a leader in transboundary freshwater fisheries governance. His research and professional work have advanced environmental policy, collaborative management, invasive species control, water governance, and the human dimensions of natural resource management.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Gaden advanced understanding of the treaties and agreements that enable cooperative fisheries management among Great Lakes states, Ontario, and Tribal governments and has helped secure more than \$43 million in infrastructure investments that supported fish habitat restoration and aquatic connectivity projects throughout the Great Lakes basin. He also supported development of the innovative FishPass project in Traverse City, Michigan, initiated a long-running collaborative research program on Lake Champlain, and helped establish the African Center for Aquatic Research and Education (ACARE),

Beyond his scientific and policy achievements, Dr. Gaden has demonstrated a deep commitment to education, outreach, and mentorship. He serves as an adjunct faculty member at both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, teaches environmental and water policy, and has championed public engagement efforts that connect communities to Great Lakes fisheries conservation.



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The award also recognizes Dr. Gaden's leadership in fostering stronger partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and advancing more inclusive approaches to fisheries management and stewardship across the Great Lakes region.

"Dr. Gaden's career exemplifies the collaborative spirit, scientific excellence, and conservation leadership that this award celebrates," said the nominators. "His contributions have strengthened fisheries management, restored critical habitats, and improved the stewardship of aquatic resources for current and future generations."

The American Fisheries Society President's Fisheries Conservation Award, presented during the Society's annual meeting on September 1, 2026, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the conservation of fishery resources through scientific, educational, managerial, legal, or policy accomplishments. Dr. Gaden's lifelong commitment to Great Lakes conservation and international fisheries cooperation has made him a deserving recipient of this prestigious honor.

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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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