



For Immediate Release
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GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S QUANTITATIVE FISHERIES CENTER

***Center a world-renowned leader in the use of quantitative tools for teaching,
outreach, research, and fishery management***

TORONTO, ONTARIO—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission honored the Quantitative Fisheries Center (QFC) of Michigan State University with the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships during the Commission’s recent 63rd annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario. The award, which the Commission presents annually, recognized the QFC for its outstanding work to enhance the understanding of Great Lakes fisheries by emphasizing the use of quantitative tools in teaching, outreach, research, and fishery management. Since it was established fourteen years ago, the QFC has become a critical component of the Commission’s structure and a trusted partner to the agencies that are signatory to A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

Commissioner Tracey Mill, the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s Provincial Services Division, presented Drs. Michael Jones and Jim Bence, Co-Directors of the QFC, and Dr. Travis Brendan, Associate Director of the QFC, with the Besadny Award. Buzz Besadny was the Director of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a Commissioner of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. “Beyond those titles, Buzz was a leader, an innovative thinker, and a statesman,” said Commissioner Mill. “He saw the importance of bringing together groups with different expertise to achieve common management goals. The origins and ongoing work of the QFC reflect the values Buzz inspired, cultivated, and understood as absolutely essential for successful Great Lakes fishery management.”

“Responsible management decisions can only be made when they are based on the best available information. Using the products the QFC develops, managers can balance fishery yields with the long-term sustainability of fish populations,” Commissioner Mill added.

Mill continued: “The QFC was established in 2004 through a partnership among Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The QFC was formed because of a growing recognition among management agencies that quantitative and statistical expertise were becoming increasingly important in fisheries management. Thus, in 2004 the QFC was born to share the quantitative knowledge and computing technology available at MSU with both the current and future generations of fishery managers.”

“Since its inception, the QFC has worked diligently to identify research priorities,” Mill stated. “Above and beyond that, members of the QFC have continuously shown a willingness to assist with the most complicated of issues, such as pacific salmon management on Lake Michigan and management of percids in Lake Erie.”

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

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Mill continued: “In the past 14 years, the QFC has produced 28 alumni, helping them establish much-needed skillsets. The center also offers online courses and training workshops to students and agency staff engaged in fishery management. The skills they teach are in-demand and highly sought-after, and the connections QFC has with management agencies mean these skills are put to use right away to solve Great Lakes issues.”

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 QFC leadership (L-R) Dr. Michael Jones, Co-Director; Dr. Jim Bence, Co-Director; and Dr. Travis Brendan, Associate Director with the 2018 C.D. Buzz Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships. The award was presented to the QFC on May 9, 2018 during the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s 63rd annual meeting held in Toronto, Ontario. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC.