



**For Immediate Release
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**GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS CAMERON DAVIS FOR
FORMATION OF “INSTRUMENTAL” GREAT LAKES PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICIES**

***Davis, of Chicago, Illinois, is recognized for decades of leadership and
a commitment to restore and preserve the Great Lakes***

GRAND RAPIDS, MI—During its most recent annual meeting, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission honored Mr. Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to Administrator Gina McCarthy at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships. The Commission recognized Mr. Davis for his exceptional leadership in coordinating Great Lakes policy and funding initiatives, for remarkable efforts to build partnerships throughout the basin, and for an impressive track record as a consensus and team-builder in the region. Davis received the award in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the location of the annual meeting.

Commissioner David Ullrich, Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and chair of the U.S. Section of the Commission, presented Mr. Davis with the Besadny Award. “What struck me about Cam from the very moment I met him was his passion; he had a fire in his eye and fire in his belly,” Ullrich said. “That flame has continued to burn intensely over the past three decades as he has worked tirelessly to protect the Great Lakes, all that they hold, and all that they represent to the people of the region. I have never seen him back away from a challenge; on the contrary, his approach is characterized by a penetrating degree of drive and determination, and an unbreakable belief that if you can bring together the right people, anything can be accomplished.”

Ullrich continued: “Cam’s work at the EPA has been a driving force behind countless conservation and restoration efforts in the Great Lakes. He has guided efforts to bring together scientists, managers, policy-makers, outreach specialists, and others to respond to the Asian carp threat through the formation of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. He has been a leader in implementing the bi-national Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and has been instrumental in making the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative viable for the past five years, and hopefully many more to come.”

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a federally funded program, first implemented in 2010, dedicated to priority issues that threaten the health of the Great Lakes, such as invasive species and toxic pollution. Administered by the EPA, this program brings together 15 federal agencies, states, tribes, and NGOs to coordinate efforts and work toward shared goals. “As the guy on the front lines of the GLRI, Cam has been remarkable at determining how best to get funds out to the areas in the Great Lakes that need them most. His efforts have resulted in more than 1 billion dollars so far of dedicated funds for Great Lakes restoration – an extraordinary contribution that will benefit generations far into the future,” Ullrich stated.

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

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Ullrich added: “Prior to joining the EPA, Cam was instrumental in teaching many of us a valuable lesson about partnerships through his work within the non-governmental sector. As director of the non-governmental organization The Lake Michigan Federation, now the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Cam showed citizen activists how to influence Great Lakes policy in a positive way and he showed state and federal governments that the NGO community is a critical piece of the partnership puzzle. Through his efforts, he showed us all how to raise the voice of the environmental community around the Great Lakes in such a way as to evoke change.

“Today, it is an honor to recognize Cam and all that he has dedicated over the last thirty years to building and strengthening partnerships to benefit the Great Lakes,” Ullrich concluded.

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.



Cameron Davis (left) receives the 2015 C.D. Buzz Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships from Commission Vice-Chair David Ullrich. The award was presented to Mr. Davis on June 10, 2015 at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s 60th annual meeting, held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC.