



For Immediate Release
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**GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS DR. NICK MANDRAK
FOR SUBSTANTIAL, DECADES-LONG SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS
TO GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEMS**

Dr. Mandrak, associate professor of biological sciences at the University of Toronto–Scarborough, is recognized for his distinguished work as a scientist and for profoundly contributing to Great Lakes fisheries science

Toronto, Ontario—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, during its 63rd annual meeting earlier this month, presented Dr. Nicholas Mandrak with the 2018 Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. Commissioner Dr. Bill Taylor, Distinguished Professor in Global Fisheries Systems at Michigan State University, presented Dr. Mandrak with the award, noting Dr. Mandrak’s thirty-plus-year career as a scientist specializing in the biodiversity and ecosystem health of Great Lakes fishes and for being at the forefront of investigating invasive species impacts on Great Lakes ecosystems.

The award is named after Jack Christie and former Commissioner Ken Loftus, two scientists whose visions and contributions advanced the concept of ecosystem management. The award recognizes individuals or groups who adhere to the highest principles of science, for the benefit of Great Lakes ecosystems and the fisheries they support.

In presenting the award, Commissioner Taylor said: “Dr. Mandrak is a distinguished scientist with a 30-plus-year-career specializing in the biodiversity and ecosystem health of Great Lakes’ fishes. He has always been at the forefront of science, having authored or co-authored *hundreds* of primary publications and government reports in addition to three widely cited books. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, he is a wonderful mentor for all thereby making a difference in their lives and in the health and wellbeing of the Great Lakes fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

Taylor continued: “Among his many contributions to science, Dr. Mandrak has been an influential leader in understanding the risk posed by aquatic invasive species. For example, he led the development of science input on many of the Department of Fisheries and Ocean’s national Species at Risk policies, including on critical habitat and allowable harm. His work with DFO has provided critical foundations in the evaluation of the status of freshwater fish species and the evaluation of the potential to recover species at risk. This work has advanced actions to protect and restore Great Lakes biodiversity. He also developed, and served as the Executive Director of, the DFO’s National Centre of Expertise for Aquatic Risk Assessment of Aquatic Invasive Species. At the University of Toronto- Scarborough, he leads the Conservation Biology program, continuing research to support restoration of fish species and advancing effective prevention of the establishment of Asian Carps and other invasive species into the Great Lakes. Additionally Dr. Mandrak’s popular guide to fishes, published by the Royal Ontario Museum, is a trusted handbook to the public and fisheries professionals alike.”

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

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“His work on the fishes of the Great Lakes, species at risk, and the biogeography and evolutionary biology of Great Lakes fishes has been central to understanding our valuable fish communities and their dynamics,” Commissioner Taylor stated. “He is a recognized expert in freshwater fishes of Canada carrying on the legacy of his supervisor, E.J. Crossman, the first recipient of the Christie Loftus Award.”

“Dr. Mandrak’s work to understand and improve Great Lakes fishes at multiple taxonomic and geographic scales, and for all he has done to further the conservation, protection, and recovery of freshwater fish biodiversity, make him a most deserving recipient of the 2018 Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems,” Taylor 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.



Great Lakes Fishery Commission Commissioner Dr. Bill Taylor (left) presents Dr. Nicholas Mandrak with the 2018 Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions toward Understanding Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems. The award was presented to Dr. Mandrak on May 9, 2018 during the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s 63rd Annual Meeting held in Toronto, Ontario. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC.