



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

**For Immediate Release
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GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION CANCELS 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission announced today that its 2020 Annual Meeting has been cancelled. This action is to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and because of widespread travel restrictions.

The Commission's 2020 Annual Meeting was to occur May 26-28 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario; it will not be re-scheduled in 2020. The Commission will conduct its annual meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2021. Although the Commission will not hold an in-person annual meeting, commissioners and staff will interact remotely with each other and with partners and stakeholders to conduct essential business.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, under the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, is responsible for fostering cross-border collaboration among the state, provincial, U.S. tribal, and federal jurisdictions; implementing a bi-national sea lamprey control program; and facilitating a comprehensive science program to support the lakes' fisheries and ecosystem. "Lake Committee" meetings, which are the primary mechanisms for cross-border collaboration, were cancelled in March, 2020. The launch of the sea lamprey control field season (which typically runs April through October) might be delayed. The Commission does not anticipate major disruptions to its science program.

"The Great Lakes Fishery Commission depends on in-person collaboration to achieve many of the necessary objectives under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, our guiding treaty," said Jim McKane, Commission chair. "Obviously, given the regional and global implications of travel and personal interactions, our *modus operandi* and the need to practice social distancing are incompatible. Like everyone, we are anxious to get back to our work in a fulsome way, but not before public health and other public officials deem it safe to do so."

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