



Great Lakes Fishery Commission La Commission des Pêcheries des Grands Lacs

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THE GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS

President Biden Appoints Karen Diver, Shannon Estenoz, and Kendra Wecker to binational commission

ANN ARBOR, MI—President Biden has appointed Ms. Karen Diver of Minnesota, Ms. Shannon Estenoz of Florida, and Ms. Kendra Wecker of Ohio to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission), a bi-national, treaty-based organization charged with cross-border collaboration in the interest of maximizing sustained productivity of fish stocks of shared concern between Canada and the United States. Commissioners Diver, Estenoz, and Wecker will work with their American and Canadian colleagues to establish the Commission’s programs, identify priorities, and take other measures necessary to protect and maintain the \$6 billion Great Lakes fishery.

Established in 1954 by the *Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries*, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has three primary duties: to support fisheries research; control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes; and facilitate fishery management among provincial, state, U.S. tribal, and federal agencies, which it does through implementation of the consensus-based agreement, *A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*. The Commission consists of four Canadian commissioners appointed by the Privy Council of Canada, and four U.S. commissioners (plus one alternate) appointed by the President. Commissioners are supported by a secretariat, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

“Commissioners serve a critical role in protecting the Great Lakes basin,” said James McKane, the Commission’s chair. “The Commission is committed to maintaining strong and productive relationships between Canada and the United States and our success requires dedicated individuals who understand our mission, appreciate the necessity of binational cooperation, forge lasting and meaningful relationships with leaders, lawmakers, and officials representing a wide community of Great Lakes stakeholders.”

Commissioner Karen Diver, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, has spent her career working to strengthen Native American communities. She is Senior Advisor to the President of the University of Minnesota for Native American Affairs and is responsible for building research partnerships and



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university policies that respect tribal traditions, languages, and governance. Prior to her appointment to the Commission, Diver was Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Vice-President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), and chairwoman of the MCT Finance Corporation. Additionally, from 2015-2017, Diver served as President Obama’s Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs, where she assisted with inter-agency efforts, policy, and regulatory changes to benefit 567 Native American tribes.

Commissioner Shannon Estenoz, a fifth generation native of Key West, Florida, has spent more than 20 years as an active leader in the fisheries and wildlife community and has deep knowledge in large-scale ecosystem management and restoration. Currently, Estenoz is Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the U.S. Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Commission, she served as Chief Operating Officer of The Everglades Foundation, as the U.S. Department of Interior’s Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives, and as Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. In addition, Estenoz has served roles with the World Wildlife Fund, the National Parks Conservation Association, and three Florida Governors.

Commissioner Kendra Wecker, an avid outdoor enthusiast who emphasizes the importance of wilderness, has spent her career working in conservation to protect the wildlife resources of Ohio. She currently serves as Chief of the Division of Wildlife for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Before that, Wecker served as Wildlife Diversity Coordinator and Information and Education Executive Administrator for ODNR. Wecker has also served as Legislative Chair of the Ohio Wildlife Management Association and served on the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Biological Survey. During her time with ODNR, Wecker received multiple awards including Wildlife Conservationist of the Year from the League of Ohio Sportsmen.

Ethan Baker, U.S. commissioner, vice-chair, and Mayor of the City of Troy, Michigan, applauded the appointments and stated, “I welcome the new commissioners to the table and look forward to each of them sharing their skills and expertise. All of us at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission are committed to the protection, preservation, and future of the fishery, and we are grateful for the fresh perspectives our new colleagues will bring.”

“The addition of such qualified commissioners strengthens our ability to serve the Great Lakes communities and further maintain the critical relationship between Canada and the United States for the benefit of all those who rely upon and enjoy the Great Lakes fishery,” added McKane.

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

