



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission

**For Immediate Release**  
**November 15, 2024**

**Contact: Greg McClinchey**  
**226-980-9193**

### **Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Indiana Dunes National Park to Host Free, Educational Event and Screen Award-Winning Documentary Film**

**Porter, IN**—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) and Indiana Dunes National Park will be hosting a free educational event and screen the Commission’s award-winning documentary *THE FISH THIEF: A Great Lakes Mystery* on Friday November 22 at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N State Rd 49, Porter, IN. The event will begin at 5:00pm CST and is free and open to the public.

The evening will commence with a variety of hands-on, educational opportunities from the Commission, Indiana Dunes, Trail Creek Watershed Partnership, and other partners. The screening of *THE FISH THIEF* will begin promptly at 6:00pm and will be followed by a Q&A with a panel of subject matter experts. The conversation will delve deeper into the challenges and successes of sea lamprey management and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the film.

*THE FISH THIEF*, narrated by Oscar-winner J.K. Simmons, is a film that tells the remarkable true story of the fight to save the Great Lakes fishery from one of the most destructive species: the sea lamprey. The sea lamprey’s incursion into the Great Lakes in the mid-1900s decimated populations of lake trout, whitefish, and other species that were integral to the region’s economy and way of life. The crash destroyed jobs and businesses, devastating towns, tribal communities, and First Nations in Canada and the United States. In the face of the destruction, a tenacious group of scientists fought back and worked for years, tirelessly searching for a way to control the marine villain. What they discovered continues to influence the Great Lakes region’s economic fortunes and sounds a warning about the future of natural resources and the prosperity of millions around the world today.

*THE FISH THIEF* is a result of nearly eight years of production. Filming took place across the entire Great Lakes region in Canada and the United States with the help and cooperation of tribal communities and First Nations, fisheries biologists, Great Lakes historians, natural resource agencies, conservation and environmental organizations, sport fishing organizations and concerned citizens. Director Lindsey Haskin also took cameras offshore in Canadian and American waters on scientific research ships, commercial fishing gill net tugs and trap net boats,



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48105

734.662.3209  
glfc.org

and private craft helmed by passionate sport anglers.

“THE FISH THIEF tells the valuable story of the fight to save the Great Lakes fishery from the existential threat of invasive sea lampreys. It is important to continue to inform the public of the lessons of the past; many today don’t know, or forget the economic and exosystemic devastation caused by sea lampreys in the mid-1900s,” said Ethan Baker, chair of the Commission and mayor of the City of Troy, Michigan. “Today, the Great Lakes fishery is world-class resource valued at over \$6 billion, but the recovery was not without tremendous hard work by U.S. and Canadian citizens to control sea lampreys and effectively manage fisheries. The film is an important reminder of the potential dangers of aquatic invasive species and the importance of ongoing sea lamprey control.”

While *THE FISH THIEF* has been selected for, and shown at, numerous festivals, the film is not yet available to the public as the Commission continues to search for an appropriate service to host the film. Exclusive public screenings like this provide the public the ability to catch a glimpse at this exciting story before it is widely released. Learn more about the film and see the trailer at <http://thefishthief.com/>.



Left: Anglers enjoy a day on the lake. Photo: Lindsey Haskin.



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48105

734.662.3209  
glfc.org

Right: A scientist performs a bioassay at Hammond Bay Biological Station during the search for a pesticide to selectively control sea lampreys circa 1950.  
Photo: GLFC.



--30--

*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.*



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48105

734.662.3209  
glfc.org