



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission

For Immediate Release  
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### **GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION HONORS DON ARCURI FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS AND FOR FOSTERING GREAT LAKES PARTNERSHIPS**

**OTTAWA, ONTARIO**—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission honored Mr. Don Arcuri with the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships during the Commission’s 2024 annual meeting in Ottawa, Ontario. The award recognized Mr. Arcuri and his unwavering commitment to partnerships and collaboration throughout his 30 years of service as an Advisor to the Commission.

Executive secretary Dr. Marc Gaden presented Mr. Arcuri with the Besadny Award. The person after whom this award is named—Buzz Besadny—was a former member of the Commission, a former secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and a strong supporter of the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries. “The foundation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is not only science, but the relationships we create to do the work needed to benefit the Great Lakes,” said Gaden. “The time and effort Don has given towards fostering these partnerships will continue to impact the Commission in years to come.”

Mr. Arcuri has served on three ad hoc committees to maintain advisor engagement and has been the vice-chair of the U.S. Committee of Advisors since 2018. He has worked to advance countless resolutions, keenly interested in policies such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, invasive species prevention, microbead bans, law enforcement, reform of the Lacey Act, and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas. He also actively contributed to the innovative Lake Erie Percid Management Group (LEPMAG) process—the primary method to incorporate stakeholder needs and objectives into decisions regarding walleye and yellow perch harvest from Lake Erie—since its inception in 2010.

Gaden continued: “Don has shown over the years his devotion to the Great Lakes. He is able to connect with all audiences, whether it is fisheries managers at lake committee meetings, local fishers in Ohio, or children at outreach events. He is someone who is enthusiastic and relatable.”



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Gaden concluded: “Don has been a consistent figure at the Commission, committing much of his time to having worthwhile conversations, performing sea lamprey demonstrations, and engaging others who cherish the Great Lakes. We appreciate all of his efforts and the lakes are better because of his tireless work.”



Great Lakes Fishery Commission executive secretary Marc Gaden (left) presents Mr. Don Arcuri with the 2024 C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships. The award was presented to Mr. Arcuri on June 5, 2024, during the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s annual meeting held in Ottawa, Ontario. Photo: Z. Allan, GLFC.

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*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.*



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