



Celebrating **50** years of Great Lakes stewardship
1955–2005

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

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BERNIE HANSEN HONORED FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission honored former Chicago Alderman Bernard J. Hansen this week for his dedicated service as a member of the commission. Hansen, who served as a member of the bi-national agency for twelve years, recently retired from the commission. Congressman Mark Kirk (IL), co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, through a Congressional Record speech, joined with Hansen's fellow commissioners from Canada and the United States to recognize his commitment to the Great Lakes.

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 coordinate 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 for the Great Lakes. Members from the United States are appointed by the President and members from Canada are appointed by the Privy Council.

Alderman Hansen was appointed as commissioner in 1994 by President Clinton. Hansen served as the commission's chair from 2000 through 2002 and vice-chair from 1998 through 2000; he also held the positions of U.S. section chair and chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

"I join the entire Great Lakes community in thanking Bernie Hansen for his dedication to the resource," stated commission chairman Peter Wallace, Deputy Minister and Associate Secretary of the

Cabinet for the Province of Ontario. “Bernie had a distinctive ability to merge science and policy in a way that truly benefited the Great Lakes fishery resource. As a result, he left a lasting mark on many commission products and programs including the *Strategic Vision for the First Decade of the New Millennium* and the communications program.”

“Bernie’s knowledge of the Great Lakes’ political landscape was a great benefit to the environment, the resource, and to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s program,” said commission vice-chairman Gerry Barnhart, Director of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources for the State of New York. “His experiences with national, state, and local politicians opened new doors for commissioners and staff and vastly improved our relations with government.”

Congressman Kirk, in his Congressional Record statement, added: “As a member of this prestigious, bi-national commission, Alderman Hansen worked tirelessly to support measures that protect the Great Lakes fishery and helped to improve the regional economy and environment. He vastly improved communication between the commission and elected officials, he consistently brought new and relevant issues to the commission’s attention, and helped the commission better manage and evaluate its programs.”

“Because of Alderman Hansen’s work on the commission, the fishery is stronger, the environment is healthier, the people of the region are better off, and the commission itself is a stronger institution,” Congressman Kirk concluded.