



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission La Commission des Pêcheries des Grands Lacs

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### GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION CELEBRATES OPENING OF FIRST CANADIAN FACILITY

*Promoting efficient and effective cross-border sea lamprey control*

**SAULT ST. MARIE, ONTARIO**—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) has completed construction of a new chemical and equipment storage facility in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario—the Commission's first owned building in Canada. Built by Rand Construction Company with local contractors, the facility marks a significant investment in the infrastructure that supports the binational sea lamprey control program.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada sea lamprey control agents have operated out of deteriorating buildings for more than 50 years. The new 25,000-square-foot facility replaces them with a modern, purpose-built space designed for the specific demands of the program. Roughly 18,000 square feet are dedicated to equipment storage—including approximately 40 boats, 20 ATVs, side-by-sides, and a tractor—with the remaining 7,000 square feet configured for lampricide storage, complete with updated fire suppression systems. Vehicles and boats will no longer need to be winterized; the facility is heated and built to withstand Sault Ste. Marie winters. Located near the U.S.-Canada border on commercially zoned land, the building also improves the logistics of receiving and storing lampricides that agents deploy across the basin each year.

Senator Jim Quinn, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie—Algoma, Terry Sheehan, and other partners joined the Commission, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Rand Construction at a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week.

“The Great Lakes comprise twenty percent of the world’s freshwater and must be protected and improved,” said Senator Jim Quinn, co-chair of the Parliamentary Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Task Force. “The fish of the Great Lakes epitomize a healthy system. Probably the biggest threat to the multi-billion-dollar fishery is the invasive sea lamprey. Each sea lamprey will kill up to twenty kilograms of Great Lakes fish. Fortunately, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s Sea Lamprey Control Program, which is carried out expertly by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has reduced sea lamprey populations by about ninety-five percent throughout the basin. I was proud to help inaugurate a new facility in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, that will allow us to move forward with the strongest possible control program.”



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Dr. Marc Gaden, Executive Secretary of the Commission, concluded, “This facility is long overdue, and its completion reflects how seriously both governments take sea lamprey control. Our agents do demanding work in demanding conditions, and they deserve infrastructure that matches the mission.”



Photo of the completed Commission facility. (Rand Construction)



Photo of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Commission facility. (Christina Contreras Stone)

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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 the implementation of A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, a provincial, state, and Tribal fisheries management agreement.

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