



Great Lakes Fishery Commission La Commission des Pêcheries des Grands Lacs

For Immediate Release
February 17, 2026

Contact: Greg McClinchey
226-980-9193

PRIME MINISTER CARNEY APPOINTS DR. STEVEN COOKE TO THE GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

ANN ARBOR, MI—Prime Minister Mark Carney has appointed Dr. Steven Cooke of Ottawa, Ontario and Carleton University to serve as a Commissioner to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a bi-national, treaty-based organization created to improve and perpetuate the \$5.1 billion Great Lakes fishery. As a Commissioner, Dr. Cooke will work with his American and Canadian counterparts to set the Commission's agenda, decide on priorities, approve budgets, and take other measures necessary to protect the 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 and four U.S. commissioners (plus one alternate) appointed by the President. Commissioners are supported by a secretariat, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

“Commissioners play a crucial role in guiding leadership across the basin,” said Commissioner Earl Provost, chair of the Canadian Section and Ontario agent general in Chicago. “Serving on this binational, treaty-based commission calls for a strong commitment to collaborative resource management, an understanding of how science informs policy, and steady, diplomatic engagement.”

Commissioner Cooke has an extensive history supporting the Commission’s science mandate. He was a member of the Sea Lamprey Research Board from 2008 to 2023,



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI, 28105

734.662.3209
glfc.org

serving as its chair for more than a decade. Currently, Dr. Cooke serves as the Chair of the Board of Technical Experts, a role he has held since 2023, and as a member of the Commission's Science Transfer Committee. In addition, he fulfills the role of Canada Research Professor in the [Department of Biology](#) and the [Institute of Environmental and Interdisciplinary Science](#) at Carleton University, in the field of fish ecology and conservation physiology. Cooke is also the founding director of the Canadian Centre for Evidence-Informed Conservation.

"This prestigious appointment represents not only a great honour for Dr. Cooke and recognition of his contributions to fish ecology and conservation but exemplifies how Carleton researchers are shaping a more sustainable, prosperous future in Canada and abroad," says Rafik Goubran, Vice-President (Research, Innovation and International) at Carleton University.

"The Commission and its partners have done so much to advance the restoration of native fish populations, including the maintenance of a long-term sea lamprey control program," said Dr. Cooke. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together during my term as a Commissioner."

"For nearly two decades, Dr. Cooke has served an integral role in the Commission's achievements, particularly with respect to meeting our science mandate. I welcome him to this new role and am confident he will work to ensure we continue to fulfill our treaty obligations under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries." Provost concluded.

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

--30--



EST 1955 BY TREATY

Great Lakes Fishery Commission
2200 Commonwealth Blvd, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI, 28105

734.662.3209
glfc.org