



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION,
THE
NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL COMMISSION—LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM,
AND THE
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FOR
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION
ON
NATIVE SPECIES AND HABITAT RESTORATION
AND
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) was created by the 1954 *Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries* between the United States and Canada. Working cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; the States, the Province of Ontario, and U.S. Tribes bordering the Great Lakes; and other agencies, the Commission is responsible for coordinating fisheries research, facilitating multi-jurisdictional cooperation through *A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*, and sea lamprey management in the Great Lakes basin. The Commission's responsibility is to improve and perpetuate the Great Lakes fishery and the Commission is guided by its *Strategic Vision for the First Decade of the New Millennium*, which includes goals and milestones to promote healthy ecosystems, sea lamprey management, and partnerships. Delivery of the Commission's program depends on integrating ecosystem science, sea lamprey control techniques, and coordination among government agencies.

In 1990 Congress passed the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act, which authorized development of a comprehensive plan known as *Opportunities for Action* to identify priority actions to restore and protect water quality and the diverse natural and cultural resources of the Lake Champlain Basin. The Lake Champlain Basin Program (Basin Program) is a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, businesses, academics, farmers and individuals working together to protect and restore Lake Champlain and its Basin through the work outlined in *Opportunities for Action*. The Basin Program operates as a special project under the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. *Opportunities for Action* charges the Lake Champlain Steering Committee and its subcommittees, including representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with responsibility for overseeing activities of the Lake Champlain Basin Program and for guiding and coordinating among partners to encourage implementation of *Opportunities for Action*.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is authorized to provide assistance to and cooperate with Federal agencies to protect and increase fish and wildlife resources under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance the Nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people. Its major responsibilities include conservation and management of migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and interjurisdictional fisheries. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Fish and Wildlife Service operates several facilities active in the Lake Champlain Basin including the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Office and the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery.

The Great Lakes and Lake Champlain share many natural resource characteristics and management challenges, including many of the same native species, economically-important species, and aquatic habitat characteristics. The Commission, the Basin Program, and the Service also share overlapping research priorities and a mutually-beneficial history of scientists and managers who have worked in both the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain. Furthermore, the history of funding for species and habitat restoration and water quality on Lake Champlain and the Great Lakes, including allocations to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, has been beneficial to natural resource management priorities of both geographic areas. Collaboration between the Commission, Basin Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by sharing expertise, funding, and human resources will benefit fish and wildlife resources and water quality in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

NOW THEREFORE, because it is in the public interest that the Commission, the Basin Program, and Service work together through mutual cooperation and coordination toward timely, efficient sharing of expertise and capability, this Memorandum of Understanding establishes a formal agreement to facilitate such cooperation and coordination.

Article 1. Funding Species and Habitat Restoration and Water Quality Improvements in Lake Champlain. The Commission shall maintain a separate account within its accounting system for United States government funds allocated by the U.S. Congress for species and habitat restoration and water quality improvements in the Lake Champlain watershed. There shall be no obligation on the Commission to support management or research in Lake Champlain beyond such management or research that can be entirely funded under the separate account. This account shall not be the same account used for sea lamprey control operations on Lake Champlain.

Article 2. Access to Funds. The Basin Program and the Service may each access funds held in the account referenced in Article 1 through separate financial agreements to implement the specific projects to be funded. Payments will be made from the separate account identified in Article 1. The Commission will provide financial status reports to the Service and the Basin Program upon request.

Article 3. Technical Assistance. Recognizing their mutual interests, the signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding agree to provide each other with technical assistance in species restoration, habitat recovery, water quality improvement activities, and other matters relating to healthy ecosystems if sufficient funds are available in the separate account identified in Article 1 above, or if the signatories determine such technical assistance is appropriate based on individual goals and objectives. The need for such technical assistance would be determined jointly by the Commission, the Basin Program, and the Service.

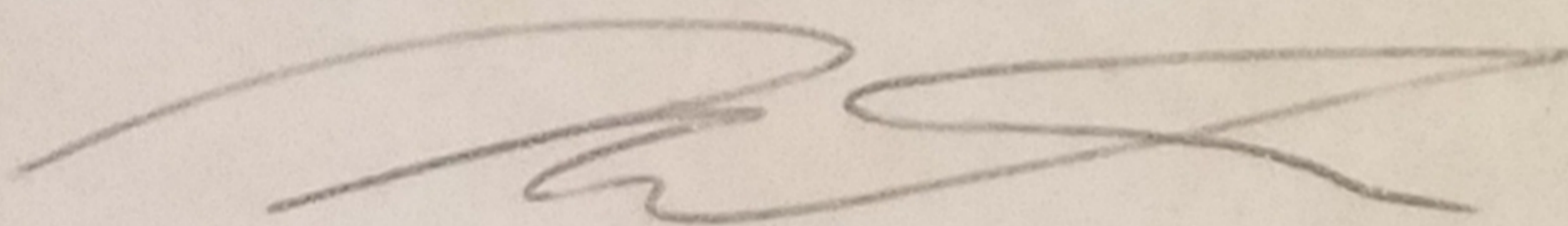
Article 4. Meetings. Representatives of the Commission, the Basin Program, and the Service shall meet periodically at their convenience to review the status of their activities in the Lake Champlain Basin, to assess future work that may be conducted in the Basin, and to identify opportunities for cooperative and/or collaborative work. Following the conclusion of each meeting, a memorandum shall be prepared recording the matters discussed and agreements reached. The memorandum will be provided to each member of the Commission, each member of the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee, and to the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Article 5. Duration. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in effect until modified by mutual written agreement of the parties.

Article 6. Terminating Participation. Any signatory party may terminate its participation in this Memorandum of Understanding, in whole or in part, at any time.

Signed,

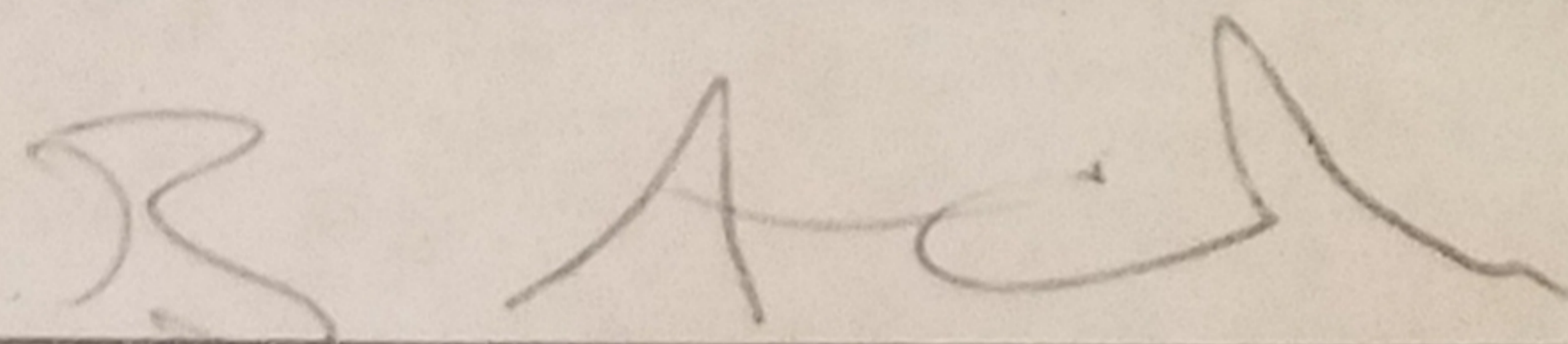
for the **GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION**



Robert G. Lambe, Chair of the Commission

July 26, 2010

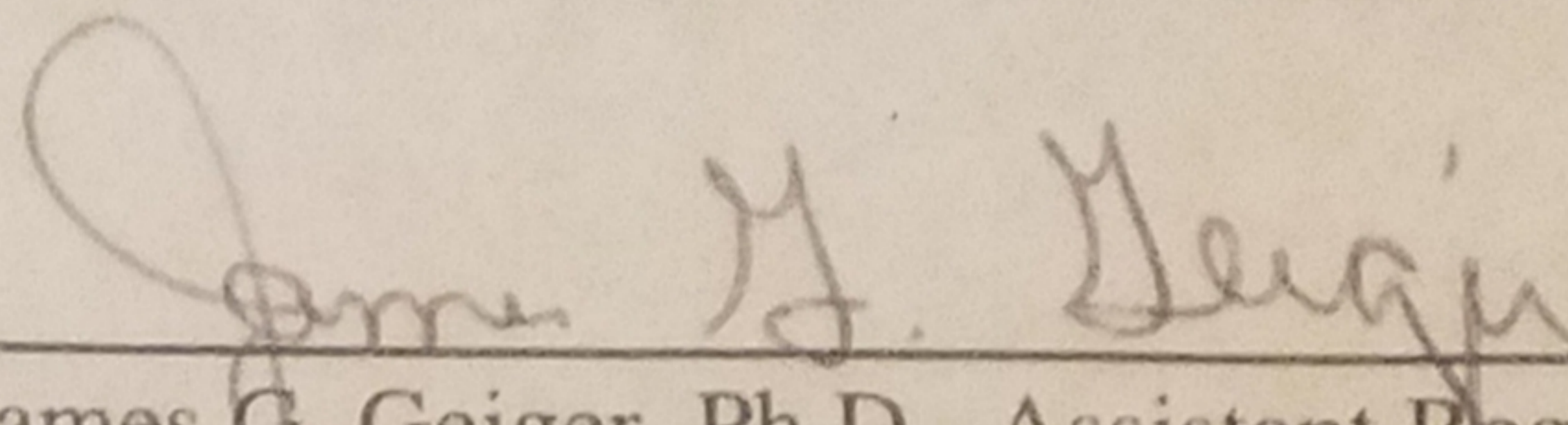
for the **NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION,
LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM**



Bethany A. Card, Director of Water Quality Programs

July 26, 2010

for the **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



James G. Geiger, Ph.D., Assistant Regional Director - Fisheries
for Marvin Moriarty, Northeast Regional Director

July 26, 2010