

Evolution of Cooperative Fishery Management in the Great Lakes

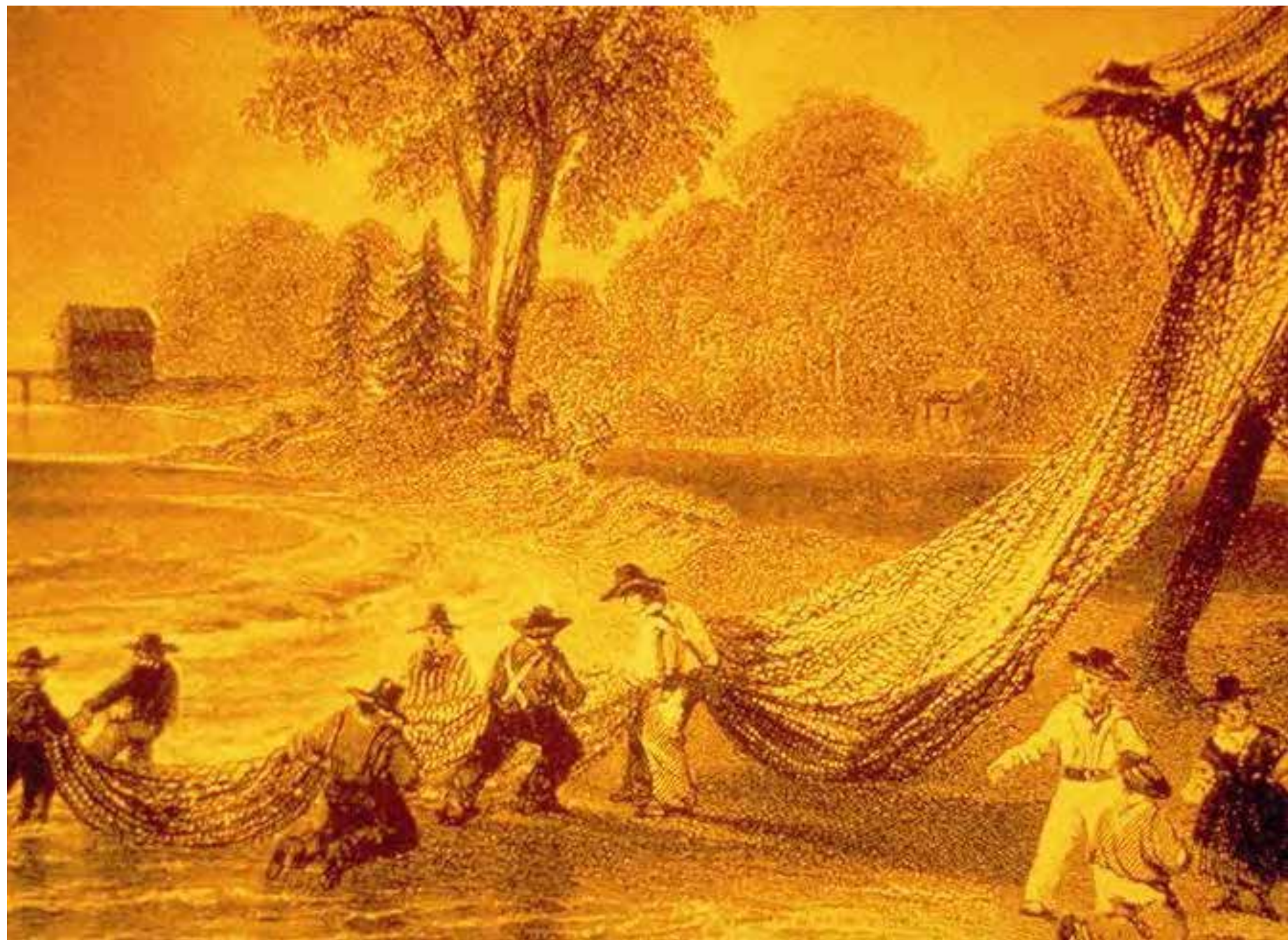


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*Presentation to the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Directors' Meeting,
June 24, 2019*











Running Summary

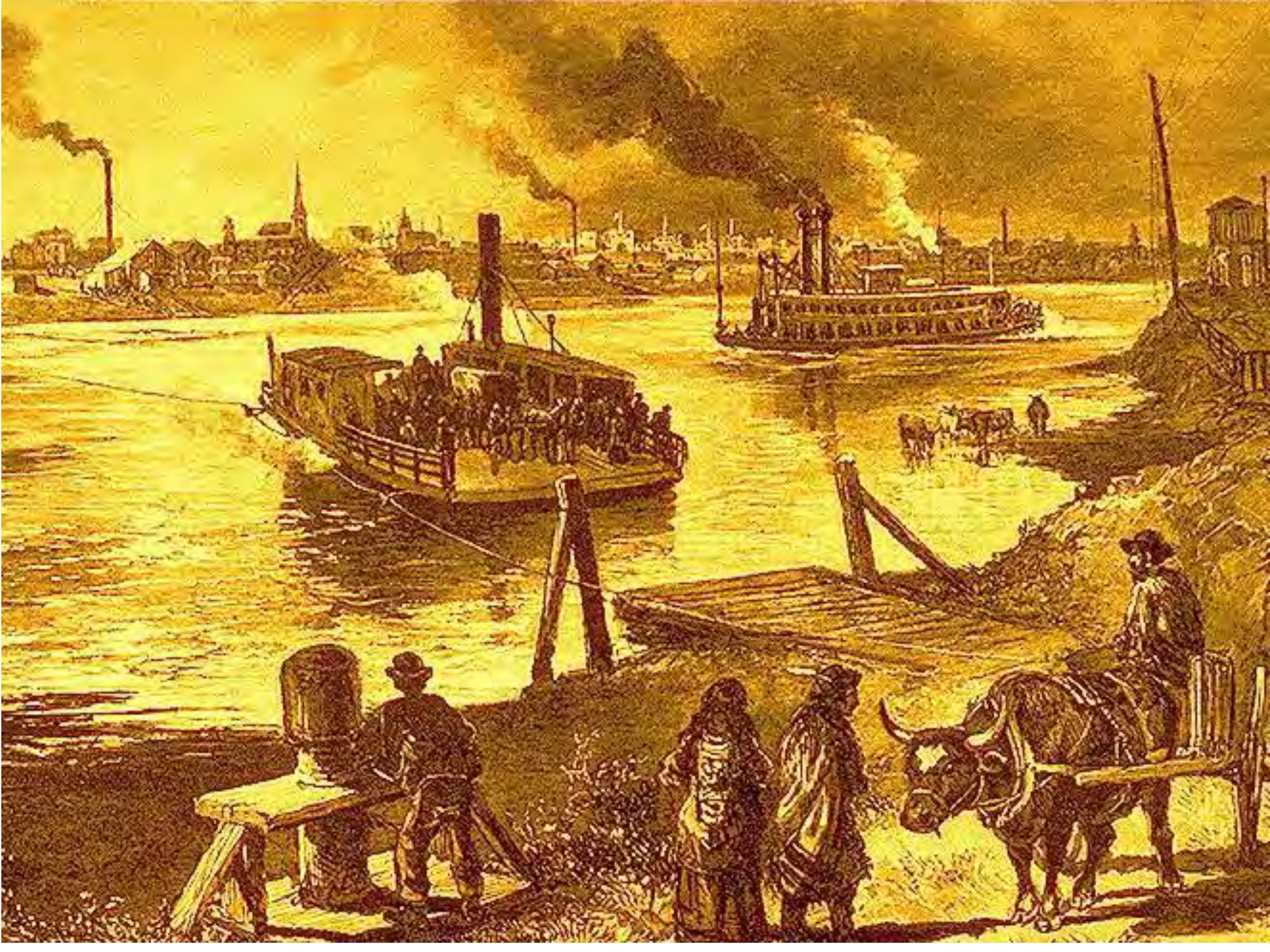
- **Early fisheries**
 - **Abundant resources**
 - **Low intensity exploitation**
 - **State authority to manage GL fish - 1787**

Early Fisheries Management

- **States/provinces principle guardians**
- **Local management of transboundary stocks**
 - **Proliferation of regulations**
- ***Laissez-faire* approach**
- **Free access to Great Lakes fisheries**









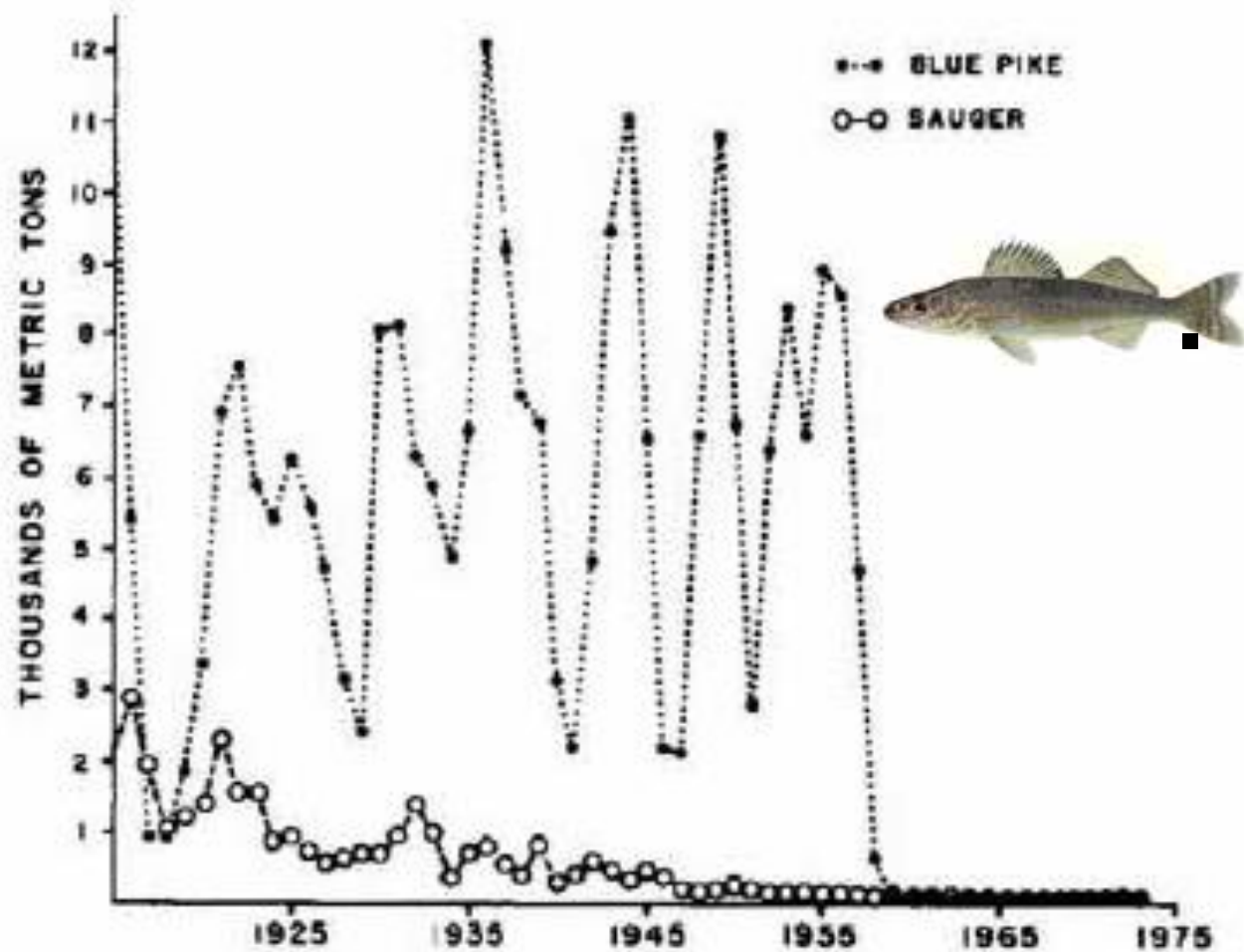
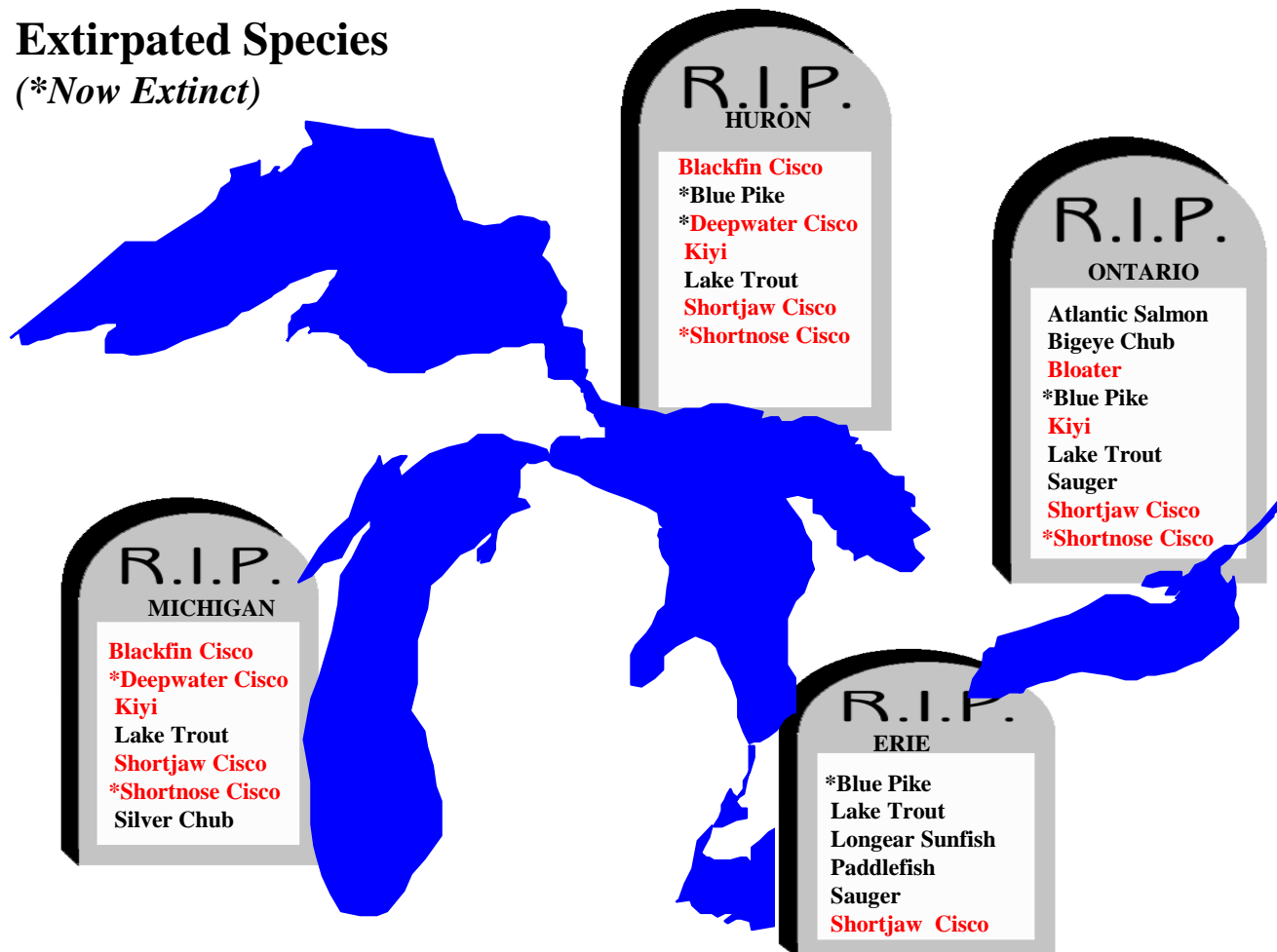


FIG. 3. Commercial production of blue pike and sauger from Lake Erie, 1915-73.

Extirpated Species (*Now Extinct)



1998 Cudmore and Crossman, Royal Ontario Museum

Running Summary

- Early fisheries
 - Abundant resources
 - Low intensity exploitation
- **Deforestation and transportation**
 - Impacts of dams, poor stream quality
 - Alewife and sea lamprey impacts
 - Technology increases fish harvests
 - Many species extirpated or extinct

1883-1942: Improvised conferences, false starts, and attempts at agreement

Un-successful
attempts at
cooperation

Failed
Treaty

1880s

1890s

1900s

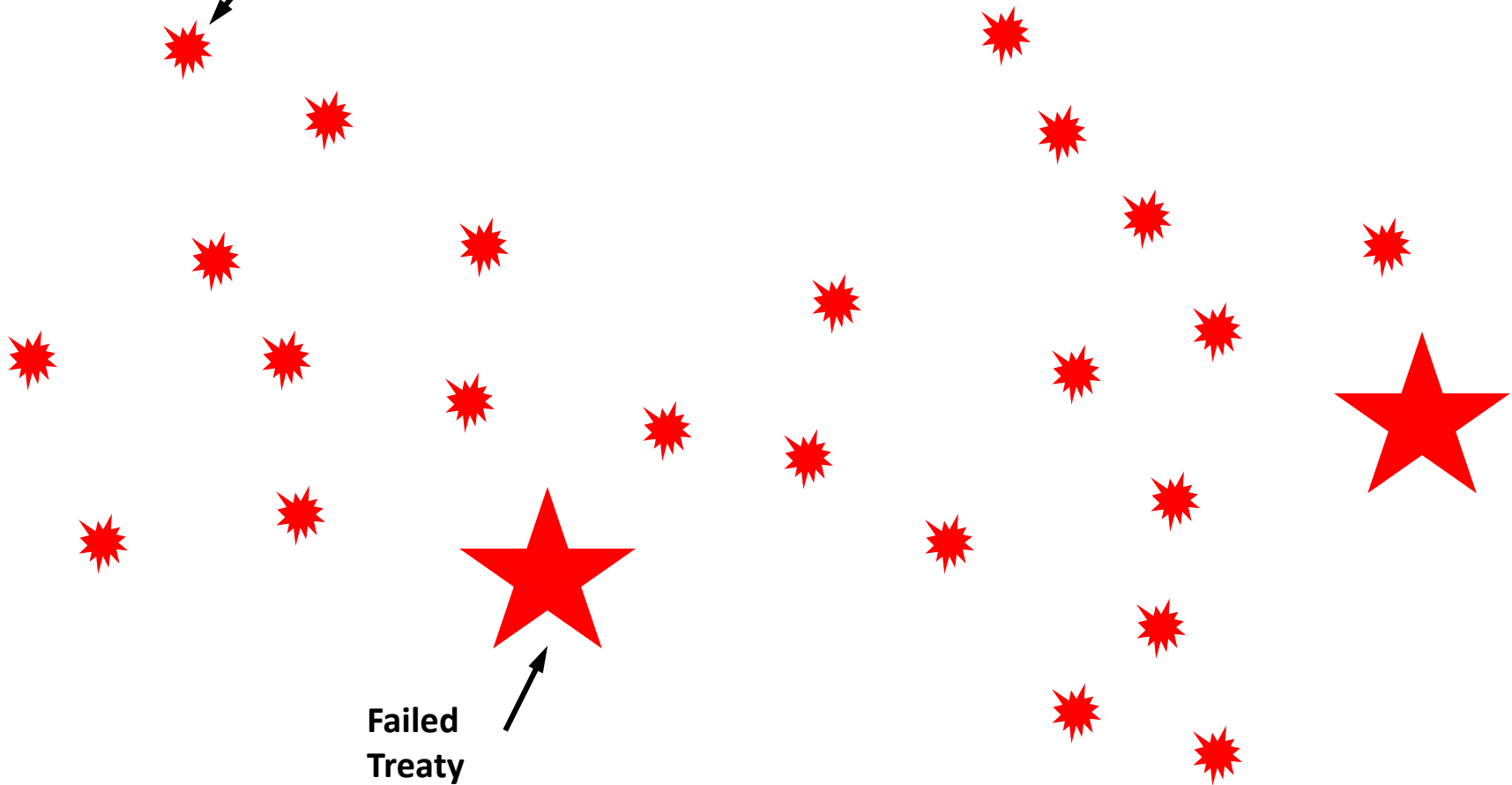
1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

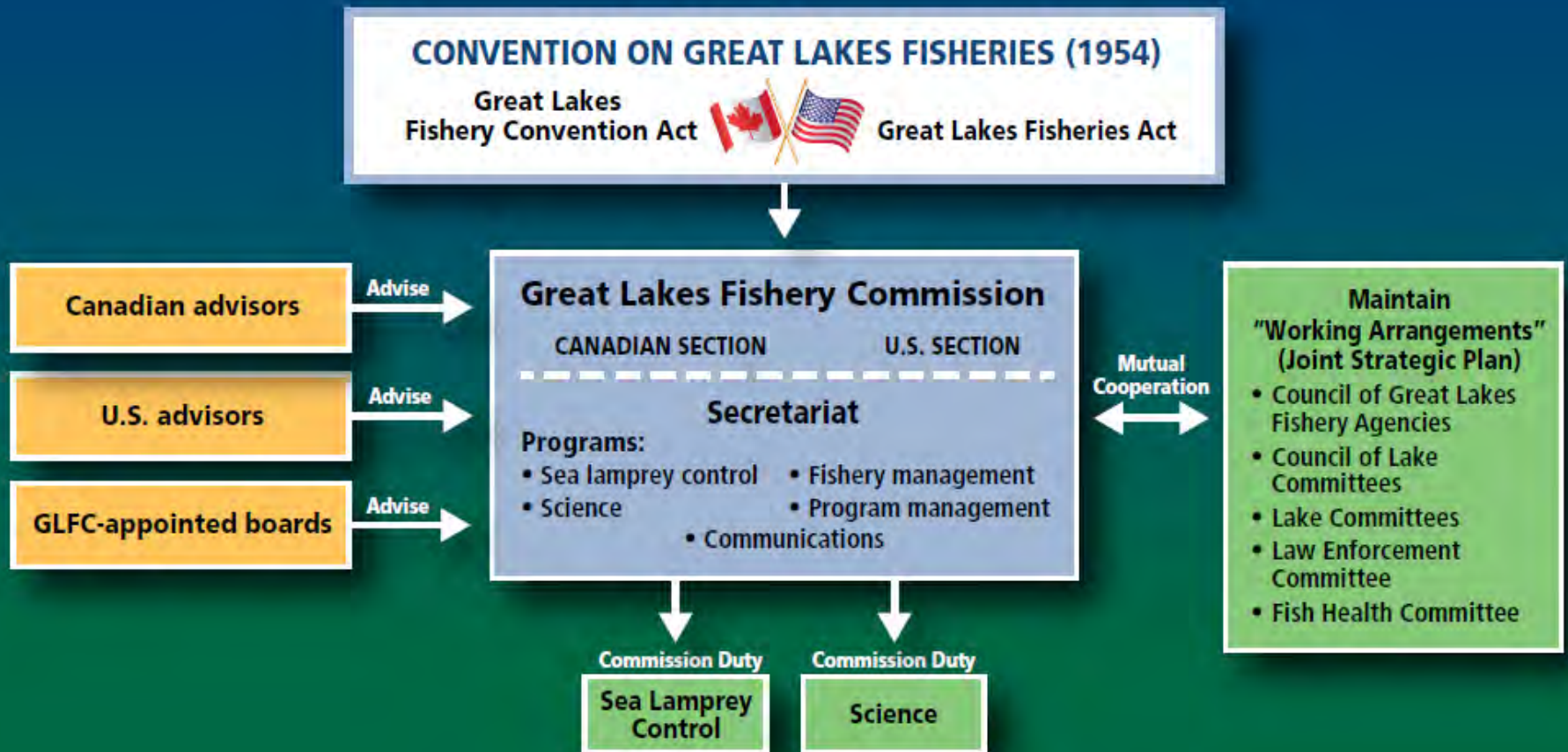
Established in 1955 by treaty: *Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries*

- Make recommendations to government
- Coordinate Fisheries Research
- Conduct Sea Lamprey Control
- Coordinate Fisheries Management



CONVENTION ON GREAT LAKES FISHERIES
between
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
CANADA

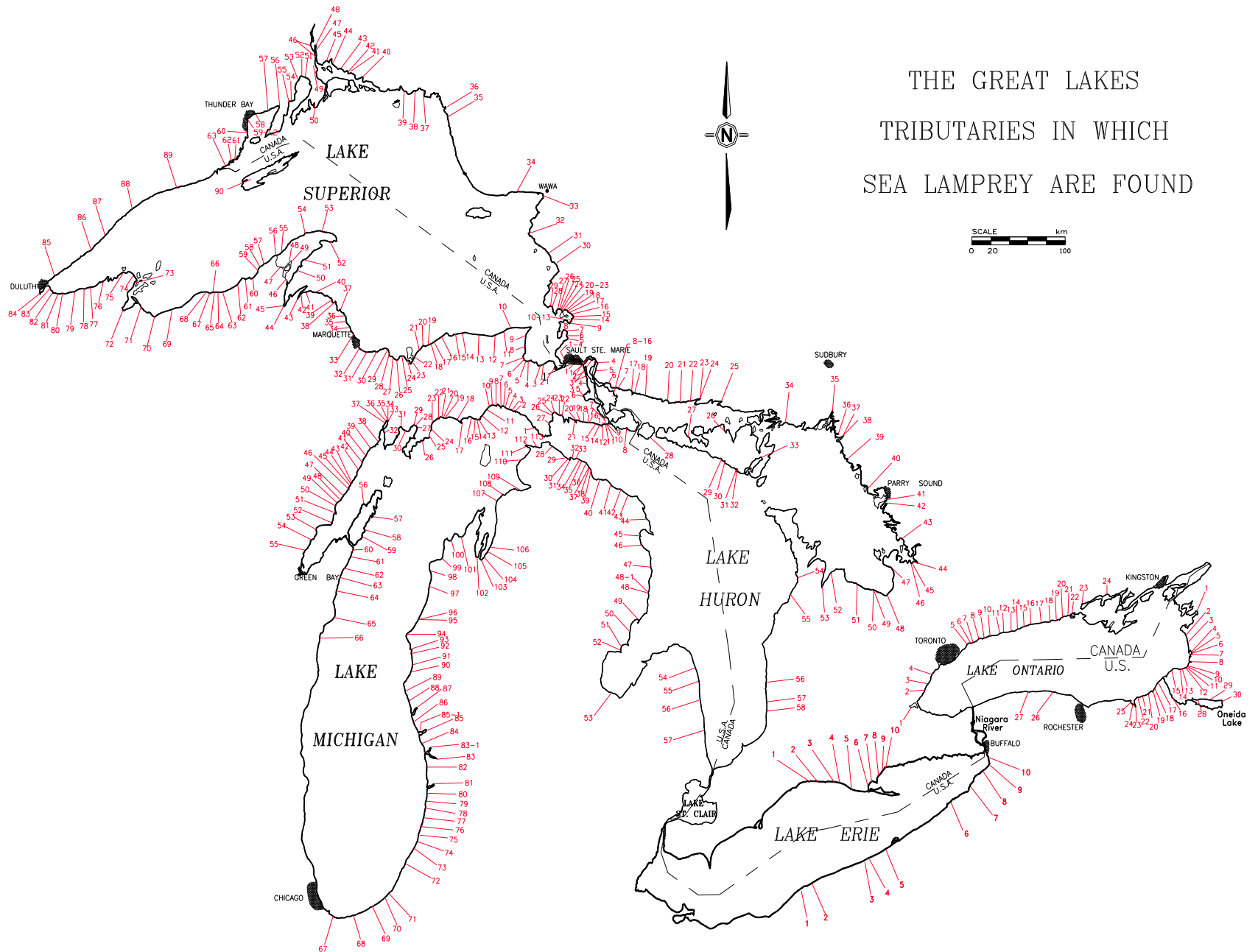
Great Lakes Fishery Commission Structure



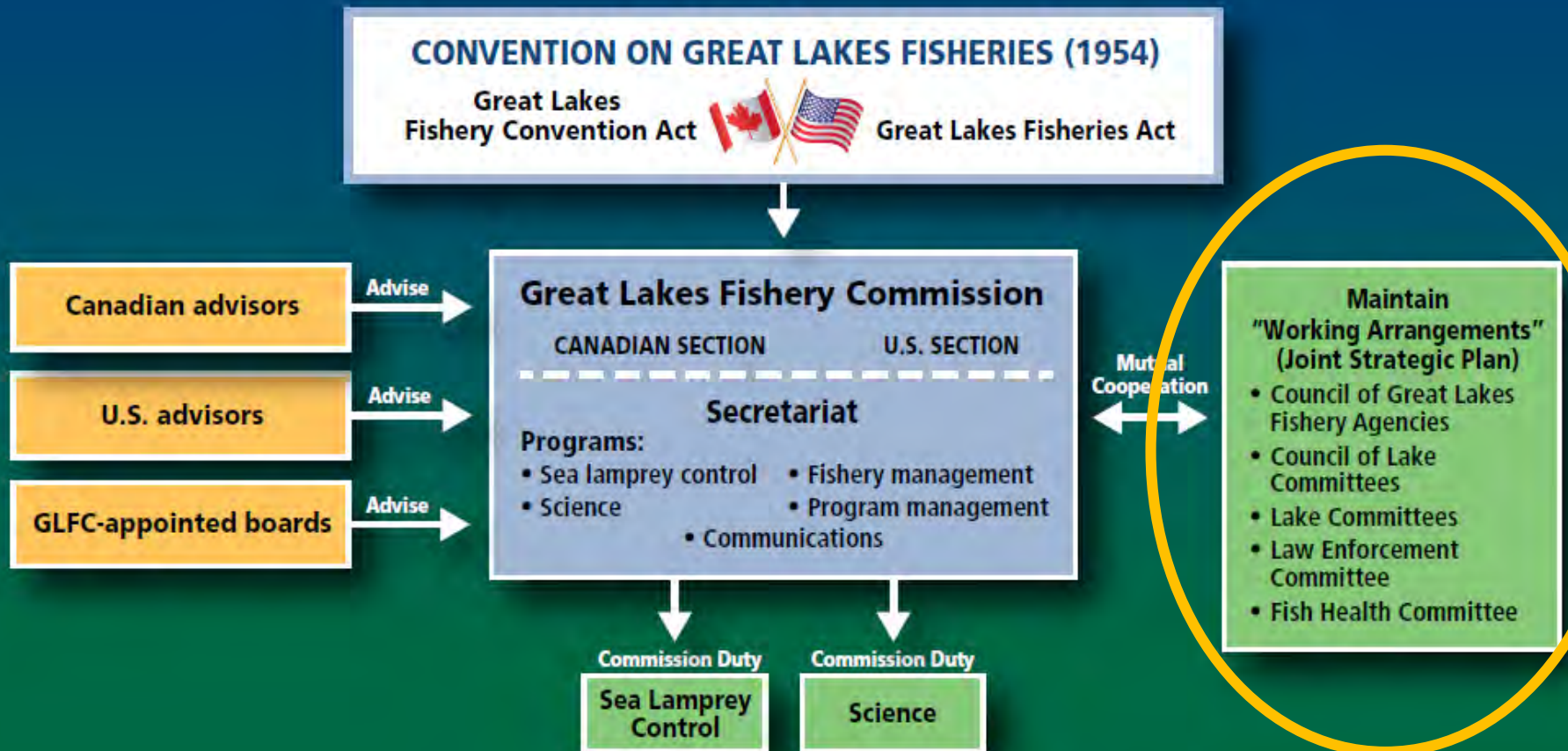
GLFC DUTY: CONTROL SEA LAMPREY



THE GREAT LAKES
TRIBUTARIES IN WHICH
SEA LAMPREY ARE FOUND



Great Lakes Fishery Commission Structure





A JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF GREAT LAKES FISHERIES

- **Plan signed in 1981; revised in 1997**
 - Voluntary, non-binding
- **Many jurisdictions on the lakes**
 - Provincial, state, tribal, federal, binational
 - Need to work together
- **Complex issues**
 - Need to understand the resource
 - Need to translate science into management
 - Need to balance competing interests
- **Participants work together**
 - Under the Joint Strategic Plan
 - Through “lake committee” meetings
- **Great Lakes Fishery Commission facilitates**
- **Highly successful agreement!**





A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries



**Great Lakes
Fishery
Commission**

Strategies for Great Lakes Fishery Management Under the Plan

- **Consensus**

- *Consensus must be achieved when management will significantly influence the interests of **more than one jurisdiction**.*

- **Accountability**

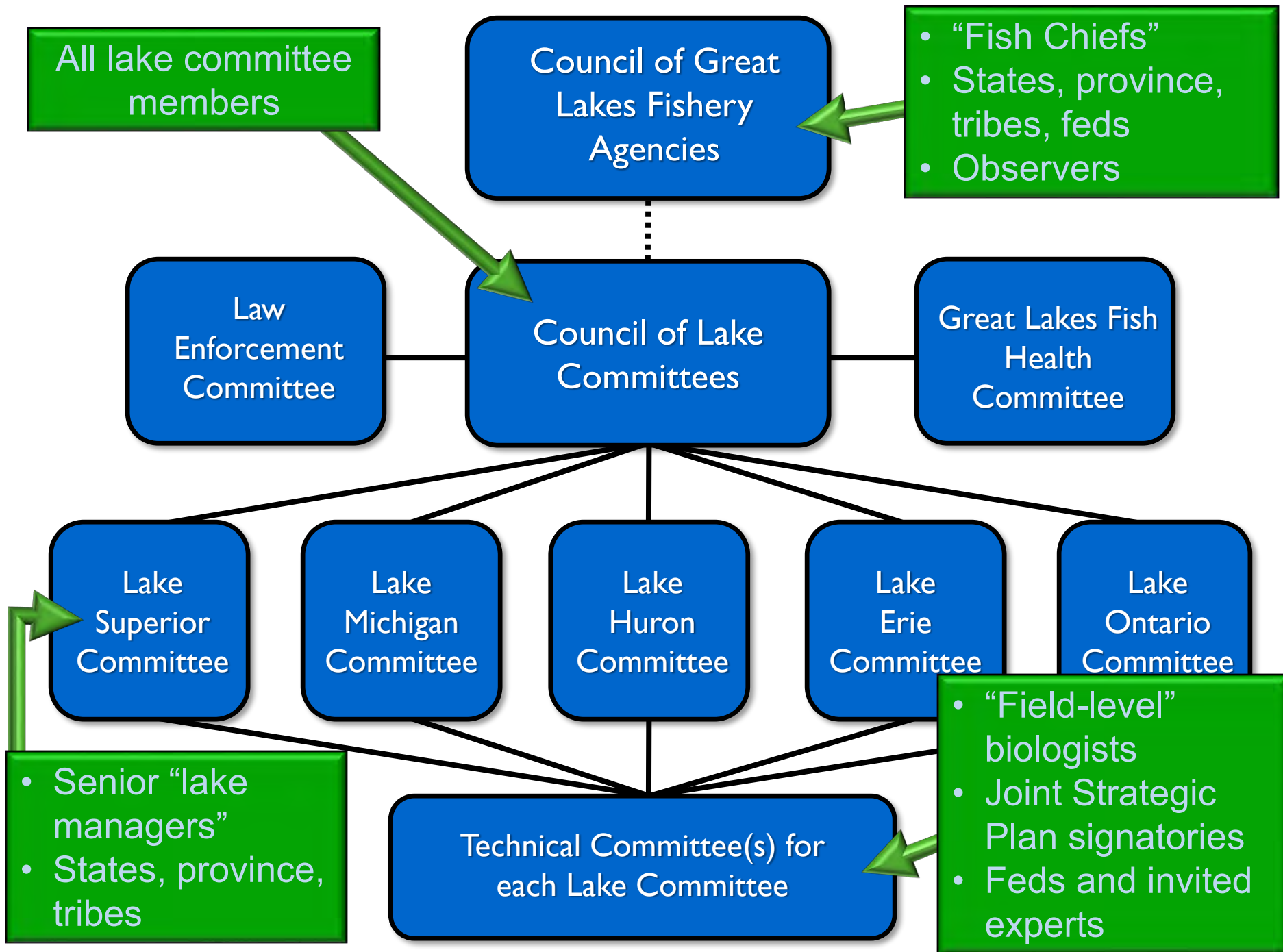
- *Fishery management agencies must **be openly accountable** for their performance*

- **Information Sharing**

- *Fishery agencies must **cooperatively develop means of measuring and predicting the effects** of fishery- and environmental-management **decisions**.*

- **Ecosystem Management**

- *The parties must exercise their **full authority and influence**... to meet the **biological, chemical, and physical** needs of **desired fish communities**.*



Why Has Joint Strategic Plan Approach Worked?

- **Shared issues**
- **Cooperation recognized at high levels**
- **Reliance on partnerships**
- **Accountability and responsibilities clear**
- **Commitment by the parties**
- **Long-standing community of experts**
- **Third party facilitator (GLFC)**

Lake Erie Committee Accomplishments

- Influenced water quality considerations
- Common assessment strategy
- Involve stakeholders (LEPMAG)
- Wise harvest policies for yellow perch and walleye
- Addressing the grass carp threat

