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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2025

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## Winter Wildlife Webinar Series, Part 1: Sea Lamprey Control in Lake Ontario and the Great Lakes

**WATERTOWN, NEW YORK** – The Tug Hill Commission invites the public to join a webinar on Tuesday, January 21 at 6 p.m. to learn about the ongoing efforts of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) to protect the health of the Great Lakes fishery from the threat of invasive sea lampreys. Register at [tinyurl.com/TugHillWildlife](https://tinyurl.com/TugHillWildlife) and a Zoom link will be sent along with your registration confirmation email.

Native to the Atlantic Ocean, sea lampreys pose a challenge to fish populations in Eastern Lake Ontario by parasitizing species such as Steelhead, Brown Trout, Salmon, Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, and many others. Sea lampreys attach to fish with their suction-cup mouths and feed on bodily fluids, impacting the health of local fisheries. Introduced to Lake Ontario in the early 1800s, sea lampreys caused significant declines in fish populations, which led to the development of control programs. This webinar will provide an overview of current efforts, including lampricide treatments in tributaries like Orwell Brook and Black Creek, as well as the use of sea lamprey barriers to prevent migration. Attendees will learn about the science behind these control measures and their importance in maintaining healthy fish populations in areas like Eastern Lake Ontario and the Salmon River.

The speaker will be Ted Treska, Sea Lamprey Control Program Manager at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. He also has experience as a fisheries biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Wisconsin where part of his job entailed compiling lamprey damage data from around the Great Lakes for the GLFC. Ted attended undergraduate school in northern Minnesota before pursuing his master's degree from Cornell University. While in New York, he spent considerable time in

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*Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.*

Adirondacks and Catskills, and some time in the Tug Hill region, helping colleagues on natural resource projects.

The GLFC, under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, has been working to manage and control sea lamprey populations for over six decades. The GLFC's sea lamprey control efforts have been highly effective since the program's inception in 1957. Today, populations have been reduced by 90% in many areas of the Great Lakes, ensuring the continued vitality of the region's \$7 billion fishery by preventing the loss of over 100 million pounds of fish annually due to sea lamprey parasitism.

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*The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.*