

**GREAT LAKES INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM—KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

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FRIDAY APRIL 6th, 2018 (9:00 AM)

**On the State of Freshwater Fish and Fisheries:
Finding a Future for the Forgotten**

Freshwater fish provide diverse ecosystem services. Yet, freshwater fish and fisheries are not often a national or regional governance priority and as a result, freshwater fisheries are undervalued and largely overlooked. As such they are threatened in both developing and developed countries. Indeed, due to lack of reliable data, freshwater fisheries have never been part of any high profile global fisheries assessment and are notably absent from the Sustainable Development Goals. The general public and policy makers are largely ignorant of the plight of freshwater ecosystems and the fish they support, as well as the ecosystem services generated by freshwater fisheries. This ignorance is particularly salient given that the current emphasis on the food-water-energy nexus often fails to include the important role that freshwater fish and fisheries play in food security and supporting livelihoods in low-income food deficit countries. The role of freshwater fisheries extends beyond just kilocalories; fish provide important micronutrients and essentially fatty acids. In some regions, inland recreational fisheries are important, generating much wealth and supporting livelihoods. I discuss some of our ongoing research and advocacy activities related to freshwater fish and fisheries in Canada and abroad.