

Dr Howard A. Tanner Award

Dr Howard A Tanner former Chief of Fisheries and Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources was responsible for the introduction of Pacific salmon into Michigan's Great Lakes waters. This in turn created a world class sport fishery for the people of Michigan and other Great Lakes basin states. Dr Tanner's foresight, dedication, leadership



and accomplishments are unparalleled in Michigan's long conservation history.

MSSFA wants to honor Dr Tanner for his many accomplishments which continue to benefit Michigan's sportsmen and sportswomen today, by presenting an award in his name. This award is presented to a non member of MSSFA who displays dedication and leadership while making outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery.

It is with a profound sense of admiration and gratitude that MSSFA has the pleasure of announcing that Patty Birkholz has been selected as the inaugural recipient of this prestigious award.

Birkholz's work on adopting the Great Lakes Compact and specifically the water withdrawal assessment tool, which focused on the health of fish as an indicator of the availability of both ground water and surface water for sustained fish populations, stands as her greatest triumph in MSSFA's area of focus. Her work on developing the Great Lakes Basin first ballast water treatment standard for permitting ocean going vessels in Great Lakes established a standard of zero discharge permitted for invasive species from the ballast water of ocean going vessels. At the time, it was the only state standard in place and was held out for other states in the basin to try to match in order to rigorously treat ballast water in the basin. The end result of an aggressive ballast water treatment program is to improve the eco system of the Great Lakes and directly relates to MSSFA's goal of focusing on the health of fisheries.

Patty Birkholz's top priority is preventing invasive species from establishing themselves in the Great Lakes. Invasives, and especially Asian Carp, pose the greatest threat to our anadromous sport fishery and we are incredibly fortunate to have Patty Birkholz in the forefront of preserving our Great Lakes and connecting waterways. It is fitting that Patty Birkholz be honored as the inaugural recipient of this prestigious award.

