

## Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*

### QUICK FACTS:

- ▶ Classification: Jawless, parasitic fish in the Petromyzontidae family
- ▶ Origin: Atlantic ocean
- ▶ First validated occurrence in the Great Lakes basin: Lake Ontario, 1830's (Mills *et al.* 1993)
- ▶ Means of introduction: Unknown but theorized that the sea lamprey migrated through the Welland Canal from its native range in the Atlantic Ocean (Emery 1985) or was brought in on boats (Morman *et al.* 1980)
- ▶ Key impacts: Parasitizes several fish species and has had a particularly large impact on lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) populations



Photo courtesy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

### LITERATURE CITED

Mills, E. L., Leach, J. H., Carlton, J. T. and Secor, C. L. 1993. Exotic species in the Great Lakes: A history of biotic crises and anthropogenic introductions. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 19(1):1-54.

Emery, L. 1985. *Review of fish species introduced into the Great Lakes, 1819-1974*. Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Morman, R. H., Cuddy, D. W., and Rugen, P. C. 1980. Factors influencing the distribution of sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) in the Great Lakes. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science* 37:1811-1826.