



STATE OF THE STRAIT MONITORING FOR SOUND MANAGEMENT



A BINATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DETROIT RIVER ECOSYSTEM

Convened December 2004 by Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor, The Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative of Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, The Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and other organizations.

Cover photos: photos left and center (upper and lower): Recreational fishing in the Huron-Erie Corridor (lower center photo by Kurt Byers, Michigan Sea Grant Extension, courtesy of United States Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office; other photos courtesy of OMNR); upper right: Scientist sampling water, benthic invertebrates and sediment in Lake Erie (photo courtesy of Environment Canada and University of Windsor); lower right: Longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*) (photo courtesy of Nicolas Lapointe)

STATE OF THE STRAIT
MONITORING FOR SOUND MANAGEMENT

2004 Conference Proceedings

Edited by:

Rachael Eedy, University of Windsor
John Hartig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Charlie Bristol, Bristol Technical Services, Inc.
Melanie Coulter, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Tracy Mabee, University of Windsor
Jan Ciborowski, University of Windsor

Based on a binational conference convened by
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APPENDIX II: LIST OF CONFERENCE DISPLAYS

Bird Studies Canada

The Bird Studies Canada display provided a quick and easy introduction to Bird Studies Canada and its mandates. It showcased two programs (Marsh Monitoring Program and Destination Eagle) being presented at the SOS conference. Both presenters were on site to discuss and promote programs as well as to aid in answering questions. <http://www.bsc-eoc.org>

Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Two displays were presented. One detailed MNR's work with partners to protect and restore the Great Lakes. The second illustrated MNR projects to protect and restore Lake Erie by protecting biodiversity, restoring fish and wildlife, and enhancing knowledge.

For information related to both displays, see: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/greatlakes/index.htm>.

Citizens' Initiatives for the Detroit River

Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario

The Detroit River remains one of the most heavily polluted waterways in the Great Lakes basin. The Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario insists that all levels of government and industry work with the public towards the principles of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. <http://www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org>

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC)

The DRCC is the Canadian organization responsible for implementing the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). As part of the overall RAP effort, the DRCC aims to provide information to the public about the Detroit River Area of Concern and the activities being undertaken to improve it. <http://www.detroitriver.ca>

Detroit River Common Tern Project

Stream Team

This project was a cooperative effort led by the Stream Team, who presented information about common tern habitat restoration at the Wayne County Grosse Ile Free Bridge, as well as population and contaminant data from the past two years in the Detroit River. The project has received support from Friends of the Detroit River, Grosse Ile Nature

Conservancy, DTE Green Team, and the Great Lakes Institute of Environmental Research.

DTE Energy and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

DTE Energy

DTE Energy's four facilities located within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge were featured in this display: the River Rouge, Trenton Channel, Fermi 2 and Monroe Power Plants. The display had large photos of wildlife and plants found at each (peregrine falcon, monarch butterfly, American lotus and red fox) plus information about the facility (size, electrical generation capacity) and its history as a Wildlife Habitat Council-certified site. <http://www.energy.com>

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

Information was provided on water quality issues, water conservation, and the work of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. <http://www.dwsd.org>

Fighting Island Site

BASF Corporation

This display detailed the restoration of Fighting Island with the help of the community.

Friends of the Detroit River

The Friends of the Detroit River is a nonprofit 501c(3) organization that is actively involved in environmental issues along the Detroit River. Its display showed many past projects, such as the Saving of Humbug Marsh, along with the new Detroit Riverkeeper program, and many other issues on which work is being done. <http://www.detroitriver.org>

Friends of the Rouge Programs

Friends of the Rouge is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River Watershed that drains the west side of Detroit and its north and west suburbs. Programs include two volunteer monitoring programs (frog and toad survey and benthic macroinvertebrate survey), a school-based water quality monitoring program, an annual cleanup, storm-drain stenciling, and a riparian corridor management educational program. <http://www.therouge.org>

Stream Team

The Stream Team is a collaborative effort of over 50 school and community organizations committed to environmental monitoring and ecological restoration in Michigan's downriver watershed. Formed in 1993 as an offshoot of the grassroots organization Downriver Citizens for a Safe Environment (DCSE), the Stream Team has been involved in numerous monitoring and community service projects, including heavy metals testing,

fecal coliform counts, biological control of purple loosestrife, stream bank stabilization, aquatic invertebrate sampling, tree planting and removal of garbage from local waterways. See Szczechowski and Nasarzewski, Section 6.11 for more information.

Gibraltar Bay Reconstruction Project

Nativescape_{LLC} and The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

About 97 percent of the natural coastal wetland habitats along the Detroit River have been lost due to development and hard engineering to stabilize shorelines. The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy retained Nativescape to create a natural, emergent 1187-foot shoreline along Gibraltar Bay at the south end of the island of Grosse Ile in the mouth of the Detroit River. The shoreline reconstruction used state-of-the-art soft engineering techniques and native plants to reduce erosion, stabilize shoreline, enhance wildlife habitat and improve aesthetics and water quality cost-effectively. <http://www.nativescape.net> and <http://www.ginlc.org>. Another site about the project is <http://www.tellusnews.com/ahr/art/pdf/GrosseIleNewsRelease.pdf>

Golder Associates

For more than 40 years, Golder Associates has been helping clients discover, produce, transport, manage, control and treat water. By combining technical expertise with an understanding of client and stakeholder needs, they help to find and implement sustainable solutions. And with a global network of scientists and engineers, Golder engages technologies and new ideas from many diverse environments and cultures. <http://www.golder.com>

International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

The International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario, provides administrative support for the binational boards and their sub-organizations that were created to assist the Canadian and U.S. governments in implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Office also conducts a public information service for the Commission and its boards. <http://www.ijc.org>

Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Sea Grant, a joint program of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, promotes greater knowledge of the Great Lakes through education, research and outreach. Michigan Sea Grant is part of the larger National Sea Grant College Program, a network of 30 university-based programs in coastal states across the United States.

Sea Grant is an active partner in the improvement and enhancement of the Detroit River and a sponsor of the State of the Strait events. Its conference display focused on Sea Grant's overall Great Lakes research program and involvement in Detroit River issues including fisheries health and sustainability, aquatic invasive species, habitat

improvement, soft shoreline engineering, brownfield redevelopment, and Great Lakes education. <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu>

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Windsor Environmental Group

OPIRG Windsor is committed to environmental protection and restoration through public participation. <http://opirg.uwindsor.ca>

RPO DataView

Wayne County Department of the Environment

An easy-to-use data exploration, dissemination and analysis tool.
<http://www.rougeriver.com>

Southeast Michigan Peregrine Falcons

Judith M. Yerkey, Detroit Peregrine Coordinator (retired)

This display featured Judy Yerkey's accumulated 17 years of research monitoring the peregrine falcons of southeast Michigan. As a Michigan Department of Natural Resources grantee, Yerkey observed and recorded the activities of numerous peregrine falcons at sites including downtown and midtown Detroit, River Rouge, and Monroe. The display featured an abundance of photos, and her meticulous records illustrated her ground-breaking research combined with her engaging, accessible presentation style. http://www.geocities.com/macomb_audubon and click on the Peregrine Page.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Clean Water – Green Spaces

Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)

In 2002, ERCA released its first Surface Water Quality Report Card, and 33 of 35 regional testing sites were deemed to have “poor” or “very poor” water quality. In an effort to accelerate the pace towards creating a sustainable region, ERCA developed the Clean Water – Green Spaces initiative. This focuses on achieving 12% natural areas coverage and surface water quality that meets provincial standards within a generation. <http://www.erca.org>

Wade Trim Detroit River Projects

Wade Trim

Projects featured include Riverside Park Waterfront Promenade Improvements, Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Belle Isle Restoration Study, Detroit Long Term Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan, Detroit River Master Plan for a Linked Greenway Corridor, Conner Creek Dredging, and Detroit East Riverwalk. <http://www.wadetrिम.com>

Wayne County Department of Environment: Our Actions Matter

An educational display was presented on how our personal actions affect our watershed and waterways, focusing on the Rouge River. The display showed how washing our cars, fertilizing our lawns, walking our pets, disposing of household hazardous wastes, and other common, everyday actions can have either positive or negative impacts on our watersheds and waterways. It described positive actions we can take to limit negative impacts.

For additional information, see the websites at <http://www.rougeriver.com> and <http://www.wcdoe.com>



Figure 1. American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*)
(Photo: Robert H. Mohlenbrock at USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database).

Wildlife Habitat Council

<http://www.wildlifehc.org>