

Detroit River AOC

Canadian Update: 2008-2009



Summary of progress to date

- Nearing the completion of our draft Stage 2 RAP document and completion/agreement on revised de-listing criteria
- Recently removed 975 m³ of contaminated sediment in the Grand Marais Drain of Turkey Creek
- Completion of a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Rehabilitation projects
 - Sturgeon Spawning Reefs constructed in October 2008 Canadian waters of the Detroit River. An excellent binational collaboration with great success!
- Several shoreline softening and naturalization projects (Town of Amherstburg and Town of LaSalle)
- Implementation of best management practices in the watershed to reduce non-point source pollution
- Upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plants in Windsor and Amherstburg to improve water quality.
- Study to determine the most effective trenchless technologies in the City of Windsor
- Development of the Detroit River Delisting and Information System (DRDIS) as an effective communication and resource system for the Detroit River RAP is almost complete.
- Study addressing the status of two BUIs (*Eutrophication or Undesireable Algae* and *Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations*).
- Many community events (e.g., Tree plantings, cleanups, Peche Island Day)
- Downspout disconnection and rain barrel pilot project in an area of Windsor prone to basement flooding

Remaining issues

These issues continue to affect several of the AOCs beneficial use impairments:

- Point source and non-point source pollution
- Contaminated sediment
- Loss of habitat
- Combined sewer overflows

Next Steps

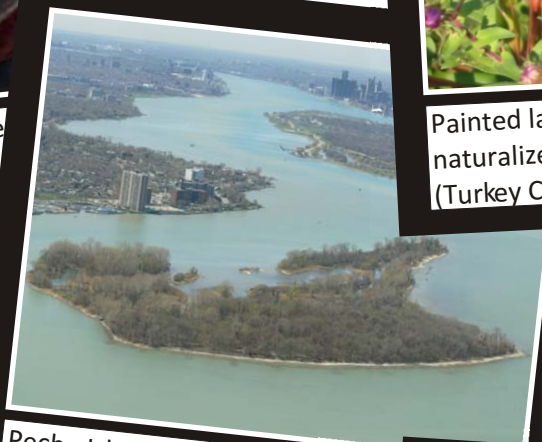
- Work on restoring beneficial water uses: 10 known impaired, 2 unknown, 2 not impaired;
- Continue to monitor issues as well as implement and promote RAP projects;
- Protect existing habitat (e.g., Ojibway Shores) and restore ecosystem function in priority areas.
- Reduce point- and non-point source pollution
 - For example, minimize or eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) by constructing a Retention Treatment Basin in the City of Windsor
 - Study of runoff from parking lots



Adult Lake Sturgeon caught in the Detroit River (Photo by Bruce Manny).



Painted lady on a New England aster in the naturalized garden demonstration. (Turkey Creek watershed)



Pêche Island
(At head of Detroit River)



Tree planting at a local school (Photo by Caroline Biribauer).



Peregrine falcon with its chicks nesting on a concrete pillar of the Ambassador Bridge (Photo by Jason Kirk).

*The **DRCC** is a community-based partnership including citizens, industry, government, academics, and environmental organizations responsible for implementing the cleanup plan to restore beneficial uses and remove the Detroit River from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern*

To enhance, cleanup, and sustain the Detroit River ecosystem...because we're all connected to the River!



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