



Peche Island Restoration and Shoreline & Erosion Prevention Project

Due to strong river currents and heavy wave action from freighters, Peche Island has decreased in area by nearly 17 acres, or 20%, since 1931.

Commitments from the federal and provincial governments, the City of Windsor, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC), Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and various funding sources permitted the largest restoration project on the Canadian side of the Detroit River to take place between 2018 and 2022.

To control erosion, over 5,605 tonnes of stone and rock were laid along the northeast shoreline to create a 600-metre-long revetment wall, and over 11,785 tonnes were expertly placed to construct nine offshore sheltering islands, each measuring 50 metres in length.

This project also created 7 hectares of fish habitat for spawning and foraging behind the sheltering islands, which is particularly valuable for Northern Madtom, a species-at-risk.

Post-construction monitoring completed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) assessed the fish community and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) establishment and shows an increase from 10% pre-construction to 49.3%. Further, 20 new native fish species not previously recorded were identified and 13 native species were found in their juvenile and adult life stages.

These results indicate that the sheltering islands are creating fish habitat that will contribute to healthy and productive fisheries, and supports long standing efforts to restore habitat and fish and wildlife populations in the Detroit River.

The project cost approximately \$4.5 million and was paid for by a partnership of City, ERCA, and various funding sources.

