

Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative: past successes and future plans of an evolving science partnership



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Presentation Outline

- **HECI Background & Accomplishments**
- **Going Forward**
 - ST. CLAIR-DETROIT RIVER SYSTEM INITIATIVE Partnership Agreement 2014-2023





HECI Background

- Overall Purpose: *Provide relevant new science that will assist resource managers in making decisions concerning restoration of native aquatic species and their habitats in the HEC.*
- Partnership established in 2005

Original Participation

- Gary Towns Michigan DNR
- Mike Thomas Michigan DNR
- Jim Francis Michigan DNR
- Roger Knight Ohio DNR
- Chris Vandergoot Ohio DNR
- Rich Drouin OMNR
- Nick Mandrak DFO
- Susan Doka DFO
- John Hartig USFWS
- James Boase USFWS
- Bob Kavetsky USFWS
- Bob Reider DTE Energy
- Jennifer Read MI Sea Grant
- Martha Gruelle Wildlife Habitat Council
- Doug Denison JJR
- Jan Ciborowski U Windsor
- Scudder Mackey U Windsor
- Kennon Johnson Walpole Island First Nation
- Bob Burns Detroit RiverKeeper
- Rose Ellison EPA
- Natalie Green Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
- Matthew Child Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Carol Stepian U Toledo
- Terry Heatlie NOAA
- Gary O'Keefe USACE
- Jim Nicholas USGS
- Russ Strach USGS
- Kurt Newman USGS
- Paul Seelbach USGS
- Jaci Savino USGS
- Leon Carl USGS
- Sandra Morrison USGS
- Ed Roseman USGS
- Jaquie Craig USGS
- Greg Kennedy USGS
- Kurt Kowalski USGS
- Bruce Manny USGS
- David Bennion USGS

A long history of degradation in the HEC

- Historical spawning habitats destroyed.
- Shoreline morphology permanently altered.
- Critical wetland nursery and refuge habitat lost forever.
- Hydrologic pathways and connections to key habitats irreversibly changed.
- Water quality and sediments polluted.
- Historically significant productivity of native fish species a shadow of what it used to be.



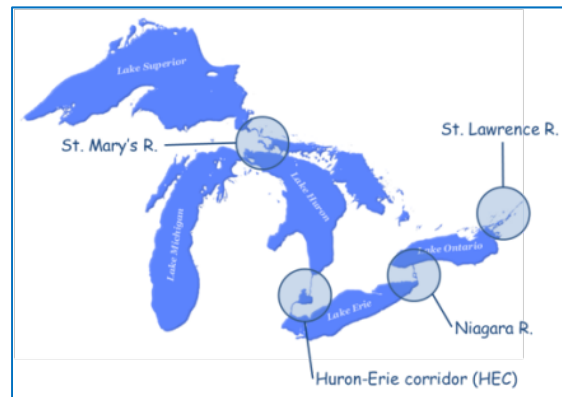
A growing history of success in the HEC

- **1987-1996:** Detroit River AOC RAP
- **2002:** 104 Candidate Sites for Habitat Protection and Remediation
- **2004:** Belle Isle spawning habitat created - eggs from 13 fish spp.
- **2005:** USGS HECI organizational meeting - lake whitefish found in DTR
- **2006:** 1st Annual HECI Steering Committee Meeting
- **2006-2008:** Public outreach, media events, publications
- **2008:** Fighting Island spawning habitat created
- **2008-2009:** Lake whitefish, walleye, sucker spp., and lake sturgeon spawn on Fighting Island reef
- **2010:** GLRI significantly advances habitat restoration in HEC
- **2012:** Middle Channel Reef constructed
- **2013:** *Secretary's Partners in Conservation (PIC) Award*



What is the problem/issue being addressed?

- Scope/Scale - Interest beyond spawning habitats
- Expanded Coordination – Sensitive to isolate or marginal impacts instead of local success with regional or national significance





Components*

Common Agenda

Shared Measurement System

Continuous Communication

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Backbone Support Organizations

How

commitment to shared vision and approach

common evaluation of success

frequent, informed interactions

coordination of signatory efforts thru mutually reinforcing plan of actions

facilitation

Who

Signatories

USGS CAP work

Committees

Steering Committee

USGS, USEPA, TNC, LEMN...?



*from Kania, J. and M. Kramer, 2011. Collective Impact. Stanford Social Innovation Review.

What new results are there to report?

- Forward looking
- Basis for effective collaboration and communication
- Nexus for integration of resource and research policy, programs, and projects
- Identify resource management needs, research strategies, and priorities
 - Environmental Conditions
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Social/economic Interests

**ST. CLAIR-DETROIT RIVER
SYSTEM INITIATIVE**
Partnership Agreement
2014-2023

What research is needed next? (**AND Management Drivers?**)

- Migratory use of Corridor / Connectivity
- Long-term monitoring
- Basic assessment (threatened/endangered/invasive)
- Information transfer
- Socioeconomic
- Impacts of improved habitats on non-desirable animals





The Vision

- The creation of an organization that represents the interests of the SCDRS within the overall Great Lakes research, planning, policy and program community
- That manages research and resource management priorities within the SCDRS, and individual water bodies thereof; and,
- That improves environmental conditions in the SCDRS and Western Basin of Lake Erie through identification and implementation of common goals relating to environmental quality, fish and wildlife, social and economic interests



Questions?

www.huron-erie.org