

Michigan Areas of Concern

Detroit River



Background

The Detroit River is a 32-mile international waterway linking Lake St. Clair and the Upper Great Lakes to Lake Erie. While the area is renowned for its abundant fishing and recreational opportunities, the river has also suffered from careless environmental practices for decades.



Over the past century, industrial and urban development has led to severe impact to the natural resources of the Detroit River. Industrial discharges and Combined Sewer Overflows from municipal sources has resulted in contamination of the river sediment with PCB, PAH, and heavy metals such as mercury. These and other activities degraded water quality in other ways as well. Due to these environmental problems, the Detroit River was identified as one of 43 Areas of Concern

throughout the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.

Thankfully, individual and collaborative local, federal, state and other restoration projects have cleaned up contaminated sediments and improved fish and wildlife habitat throughout the Detroit River corridor. While the AOC has seen much progress, the Detroit River's health hinges on continued restoration work.

Recent Accomplishments

- ◆ Contaminated Sediment Remediation at the "Black Lagoon"
- ◆ Habitat Restoration at Belle Isle's Blue Heron Lagoon
- ◆ Habitat Restoration at Belle Isle's South Fishing Pier
- ◆ Summarization of all Available Sediment Contamination data
- ◆ Celeron Island Sediment Contamination Characterization
- ◆ River Rouge/Ecorse Shoreline Sediment Contamination Characterization

Next Steps

- ◆ Finalize the Detroit River AOC Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan
- ◆ Upper Trenton Channel Contaminated Sediment Remediation
- ◆ Remaining Sediment Contamination Characterization
- ◆ Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study for Stony and Celeron islands

Beneficial Use Impairments

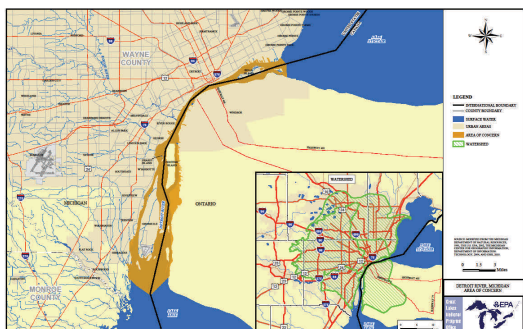
- ◆ Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption
- ◆ Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor (removed 2013)
- ◆ Fish Tumors or Other Deformities
- ◆ Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems
- ◆ Degradation of Benthos
- ◆ Restrictions on Dredging Activities
- ◆ Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odor Problems (removed 2011)
- ◆ Beach Closings
- ◆ Degradation of Aesthetics
- ◆ Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations
- ◆ Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

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