Educating and Engaging Stakeholders: Outreach Activities in Southwest Michigan

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Abstract

Michigan Sea Grant organized an educational public meeting to raise awareness of sturgeon rehabilitation opportunities in southwest Michigan. Subsequently, the newly-formed Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow, New Richmond Chapter was provided with materials and expertise necessary to participate in sampling for sturgeon eggs. Efforts in 2008 did not result in the capture of sturgeon eggs from the Kalamazoo River, but did serve the purpose of engaging and energizing an emerging stakeholder group.

Current and Future Activities

Michigan Sea Grant continues to work with Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow and other partner groups on projects including:

- Bank Stabilization Planning
- Educational Display Design
- Brochure Development
- Egg and Habitat Sampling 2009

Conclusion

Although targeted sturgeon fisheries do not exist in southwest Michigan, outreach efforts successfully identified, educated, and engaged local residents interested in contributing to sturgeon rehabilitation.

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Non-profit Organization

Volunteers who participated in the public meeting and/or egg sampling organized with the assistance of Michigan Sea Grant to form the Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow, New Richmond Chapter.

Literature Cited