



The Chemical Company



News Release

For Immediate Release: October 15, 2009

Fish Habitat Restored in the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River

Riverview, MI – The Detroit River has experienced substantial improvement of environmental quality over the past 35 years that has resulted in dramatic improvements in the fishery. Fishery scientists have documented the recovery of walleye from crisis levels in the 1970s and a return of lake sturgeon and lake whitefish to the river after several decades of absence. Recent U.S.-Canadian research and monitoring under the Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative has shown that, in general, environmental pollution is no longer limiting the fishery and that lack of proper spawning habitat is now the factor most limiting fish productivity. Scientists and managers are now able to restore habitat that was historically lost through building and dredging of shipping channels, and lost through waterfront developments.

BASF Corporation recently constructed nearly one acre of habitat for walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and lake sturgeon in the Trenton Channel near the company's Riverview property. In spring of 2009, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey fishery biologists collected walleye and lake sturgeon in spawning-ready condition at this new habitat site. Lake sturgeon, a remnant of the dinosaur age, is a key indicator of ecosystem health and is considered a keystone species by scientists and fishery managers. Monitoring will continue to track fishery use and reproductive success at this site in the future.

In 2008, BASF completed an environmental remediation project at this property in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). This important remediation project has helped lay the foundation for the fish habitat restoration in the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River.

The Detroit River and Lake Erie are well known as the walleye capital of the world. Indeed, walleye fishing brings in more than \$1 million each spring to the Downriver economy and walleye fishing tournaments on the Detroit River have offered more than \$500,000 in prize money. FLW Outdoors has also held the Chevy Open bass tournament on the Detroit River that offered \$1.5 million in prize money and resulted in bringing in \$4-5 million to our Detroit metropolitan economy.

“This fish habitat restoration is the culmination of over 35 years of pollution prevention and control programs that is helping to enhance and sustain our internationally recognized fishery,” said Congressman John D. Dingell. “This is truly significant for our region because it supports the vital Michigan tourism economy, encourages further outdoor recreation, and helps our businesses attract and retain the next generation of employees by improving quality of life.”

“BASF is proud of its long-term record of environmental protection, social responsibility, and economic success,” notes J.D. Purvis, General Manager of BASF’s Wyandotte site. “This fish habitat restoration project in the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River supports our commitment to protecting the environment and quality of life for the community, and to fostering economic vitality in the Downriver area.”

Detroit River holds the distinction of being part of North America’s only International Wildlife Refuge and only international heritage river system.

BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has more than 15,000 employees in North America, and had sales of approximately \$17.5 billion in 2008.

BASF is the world’s leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics and performance products to agricultural products, fine chemicals, as well as oil and gas. As a reliable partner, BASF helps its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges, such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF has approximately 97,000 employees and posted sales of more than €2 billion in 2008.

The U. S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center exists to meet the Nation's need for scientific information for restoring, enhancing, managing, and protecting living resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats, for the continuing benefit of American people.

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Lake sturgeon (L) and walleye (R) captured at the BASF Riverview site in spring 2009
(photo credit: Jim Boase, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

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