



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**Biennial State of the Strait Report Promotes Greater Use of Remote Sensing and GIS to Better Manage the Huron-Erie Corridor**

**Windsor/Detroit** – Today, Canadian and U.S. partner organizations released the fifth biennial State of the Strait Conference report titled “Use of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to Better Manage the Huron-Erie Corridor.” This report is based on the conference held on November 2, 2011 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. More than 200 people from Canada and the United States attended the conference to learn about existing projects that utilize GIS and remote sensing technologies to better manage ecosystems, and to disseminate information on best practices for use in future projects.

“We share a special and important corridor with our Canadian neighbors. The State of the Strait Conference is a useful tool that allows us to review, assess and discuss important issues within the Corridor from both points of view,” stated U.S. Co-chair of the State of the Strait Conference Steve Francoeur.

“Having this binational conference every two years and sharing knowledge and best practices is an excellent example of fostering ecosystem-based management of a shared resource between our two countries,” noted Canadian Co-chair Luca Cargnelli. “Promoting greater use of remote sensing and GIS technologies helps ensure that Canadian and U.S. management efforts are science-based, complimentary and reinforcing”.

The report released today recommends that environmental and natural resource managers plan actions and evaluate the ecological responses of their actions through an adaptive management process, investing appropriately in GIS, remote sensing, and other tools to effectively inform resource professionals and the public, and to improve future decisions. Moreover, this report suggests that management agencies place a high priority on integrating modeling with GIS and remote sensing to better facilitate science-based decision-making and practice adaptive management. It is also recommended that spatial decision support systems include the ability to estimate both economic and ecosystem costs and benefits to allow fully-informed decision-making and to facilitate discovery of novel solutions to management problems.

Examples of Remote Sensing and GIS projects discussed in this report include monitoring migratory bird stopover sites and habitats, mapping the invasive plant species *Phragmites australis*, and managing and quantifying water quality data.

The State of the Strait is a binational collaboration that hosts a conference every two years to bring together government managers, researchers, students, environmental and conservation organizations, and concerned citizens. Conference participants work to understand historical ecosystem conditions and assess current ecosystem status in order to achieve a better future for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. Previous State of the Strait Conferences have explored ecological benefits of habitat modification, the status of key environmental indicators for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie, monitoring for sound management, and strengthening science-management linkages. A complete copy of the State of the Strait: Use of Remote Sensing and GIS to Better Manage the Huron-Erie Corridor is available online at [www.stateofthestrail.org](http://www.stateofthestrail.org)

Key sponsors of the 2011 State of the Strait Conference and the 2012 report include: Canadian Consulate, CDM Smith, DTE Energy, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Eastern Michigan University, Environment Canada, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Friends of the Detroit River, International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Regional Office, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Michigan Sea Grant, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Windsor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Great Lakes Science Center.

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