



News Release

September 19, 2016

Windsor/Detroit – Today, Canadian and U.S. partner organizations released the seventh biennial State of the Strait Conference report titled “State of the Strait: Coordinating Conservation in the St. Clair-Detroit River System.” This report is based on the conference held on December 9, 2015 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. More than 200 people from Canada and the United States attended this conference to learn about on-going conservation projects in the St. Clair-Detroit River system, and to formulate recommendations for best practices to use in future projects.

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

The report released today recommends that environmental and natural resource managers align the goals, monitoring efforts, ecological indicators, and preferred outcomes of the various conservation strategies effecting the St. Clair-Detroit River system. The report also recommends the use of centralized platforms for sharing conservation knowledge, data and progress tracking amongst the various conservation strategies affecting the St. Clair-Detroit River system. The report also recommends taking an ecosystem approach to conservation and encouraging “citizen-scientists” to participate as partners in conservation efforts.

Examples of conservation projects discussed in this report include habitat restoration, biological inventories, and water quality improvements.

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, strengthening science-management

linkages, and the use of remote sensing and GIS in environmental management. A complete copy of the “State of the Strait: Coordinating Conservation in the St. Clair-Detroit River System” is available online at www.stateofthestrain.org.

Key sponsors of the 2015 State of the Strait Conference and the 2016 report include: Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Eastern Michigan University, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Friends of the Detroit River, International Joint Commission, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Windsor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wayne State University.

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