Management Priorities and Information Needs for the St. Clair and Detroit River System

A Perspective From the Ohio DNR

Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative
Annual Meeting
7 February 2013

Fish/Biological

- With respect to fish movement and production in the corridor – what is the contribution to western Lake Erie (and Lake Erie as a whole) and how do we develop strategies that incorporate the SCDRS contributions into management actions. (e.g., percids, corregonids, lake sturgeon, lake trout).

  - Transients:
    - ✓ need to describe the spatial and temporal variation
    - ✓ are there stock-specific concerns to be addressed?

  - Discrete Spawning Stocks (aggregations):
    - ✓ movement of larval, juvenile and adult fish

- Sea lamprey contribution within the SCRDS still hasn't been fully fleshed out. Within the context of what we're seeing in Lake Erie (e.g., increasing wounding rates in spite of back-to-back treatments), this issue needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Environmental/Water Quality/Habitat

- Habitat has been "added" in the corridor to date, but there has been no demonstration that habitat supply is limiting in the corridor – research around this would be very useful. Has this habitat simply concentrated or redistributed existing stocks, rather than contributed to additional production?

- Will larvae produced from artificial spawning habits generate production (i.e., recruits to the population) if connected nursery habitat is not available?

- Are there things that can be done to improve aquatic habitat connectivity which address the movement and production issue? (e.g., physical modification)

- Nutrient/habitat structuring mechanisms (i.e., plumes) associated with SCDRS in western Lake Erie have not been addressed – this is a management need (e.g. yellow perch larval predation, light environment etc.).

    - ✓ Relative to SCRDS what are the impacts of declining lake levels for WB Lake Erie?

Questions or Clarifications?