



St. Clair - Detroit River System Initiative



The Shared Vision Statement

The St. Clair-Detroit River System is a thriving ecosystem managed with science-based principles and broad social support, providing desired environmental services for the region and the Great Lakes



Credit: NOAA

SCDRS Initiative Project Area

Stretching from the southern base of Lake Huron to the western basin of Lake Erie, the Initiative focuses on the strait itself and it's connectivity to the lakes.



Credit: MI Sea Grant

The St. Clair-Detroit River System Initiative Partnership

Following a successful 10-year collaboration of managers and researchers under the former Huron Erie Corridor Initiative, the St. Clair-Detroit River System (SCDRS) Initiative was formed in 2013 under a formal **Partnership Agreement** based on **Collective Impact** principles. Participants include natural resource and water quality managers, environmental scientists, aquatic ecologists, and community stakeholders.

Implementation of the **Partnership Agreement** provides a foundation of continued collaboration to advance the **2014-2023 Strategic Vision**. Elements of this blueprint include the adoption of a **Common Agenda** of integrated **Strategic Priorities** for the next decade, with **Guiding Principles** to provide a consistent basis for achieving **Desired Outcomes** through defined strategies that are linked by **Theme Areas** of mutual interest to direct a **Science Strategy**, and a **Monitoring Plan** that help to inform, evaluate, and coordinate decisions of the Partnership.

Priority Management Actions

In 2014, the Steering Committee established five management priorities to guide coordinated management, science, and monitoring efforts toward a **Common Agenda**. Actions include (non-ranked):

1. **Address Beneficial Use Impairments** to de-list the Detroit River Area of Concern and St. Clair River Area of Concern in both countries
2. **Improve water quality** through reductions in pollutants from SCDRS sources
3. **Increase overall biodiversity** through protection and improvements to a connected mosaic of habitats in the system
4. **Increase production of indigenous fish stocks** through protection and improvements to functional habitats in the system
5. **Reduce impacts** on habitats, biodiversity, and fisheries from Aquatic Invasive Species threats





2014-2023 Priority Objectives

1. Complete habitat improvement projects
2. Reduce loading of total phosphorus & dissolved reactive phosphorus
3. Identify contaminants of emerging concern
4. Increase riparian complexity & connectivity
5. Increase area of functional wetlands & their connectivity
6. Increase river spawning habitat
7. Identify & protect critical habitat areas for rare species
8. Develop surveillance monitoring for Aquatic Invasive Species
9. Implement information & education programs

How You Can Support the SCDRS Initiative?

- Sign onto the Partnership Agreement
- Join a Subcommittee
- Attend the Annual Workshop
- Sponsor the Annual Workshop
- Sponsor the SCDRS.org website

Get Involved with the Committees

Steering Committee: Fosters cooperative efforts to implement the Strategic Vision.

Contact: Richard Drouin, Chair
richard.drouin@ontario.ca
(519) 873-4611

Science Subcommittee: Charged with developing a Science Strategy for the Initiative that includes relevant research hypotheses to achieve SCDRS goals.

Contact: Justin Chiotti, Chair
justin_chiotti@fws.gov
(248) 891-0087

Monitoring Subcommittee: Charged with prioritizing surveys & database that further advance SCDRS goals.

Contact: Ed Roseman, Chair
eroseman@usgs.gov
(734) 994-8780

Communications Subcommittee: Charged with developing methods and products to communicate progress to the SCDRS Partnership and other stakeholders in the region.

Contact: Michelle Selzer, Chair
selzerm@michigan.gov
(517) 284-5050



Credit: NOAA



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Walpole Island First Nation
• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Environment Canada • Fisheries and Oceans Canada

To Learn more about the SCDRS Initiative or to get involved visit: <http://scdrs.org/>