

Michigan Areas of Concern

Project Highlight: Detroit River



South Fishing Pier | Sept. 2012-June 2013

Project Type: Restoration
Location: Wayne County



GLRI Funds: \$497,634
Local Match: \$30,655

Project at a Glance

The South Fishing Pier restoration project is located on the southeastern shore of Belle Isle. This habitat restoration project features three “breakwater” barriers consisting of core stone and two ton anchor stone. The stone, placed parallel to the existing fishing pier, along with three small underwater rock berms, which run perpendicular to the pier, are meant to protect newly created aquatic nursery habitat from freighter wake and ice



BEFORE

flows. Within the protected zone, three small pools were dredged to ten feet deep to provide attractive deep water areas for fish. Material dredged from the pools was placed in surrounding areas, raising the elevation of the river bottom to support the creation of over 2.5 acres of coastal wetland. The project was specifically designed as a nursery for larval fish traveling from the nearby, recently constructed, spawning reef upstream.

The project created fisheries habitat in the Detroit River, and provides excellent recreational opportunities for the public.

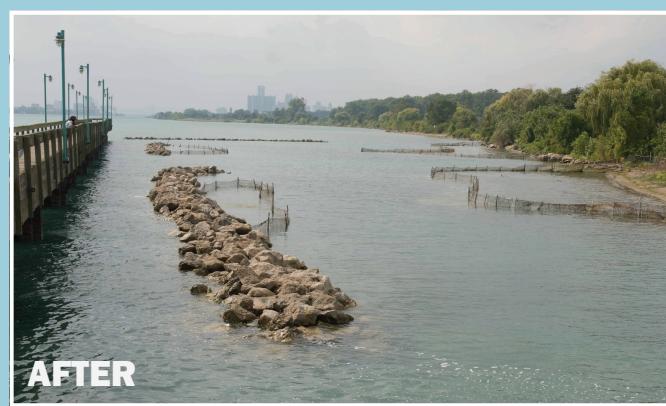
The project benefits Great Lakes fish species, amphibians and reptiles, such as the threatened eastern fox snake. Belle Isle provides resting and feeding habitat for migratory bird species due to the island's location on several migratory flyways.

Local Perspective

“The creation of coastal wetlands at Belle Isle’s South Fishing Pier will enhance fishing opportunities for the public and benefit the entire wildlife community including Great Lakes fishes, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Coupled with recent improvements at the Blue Heron Lagoon, these projects set the bar for further restoration work on and near the island, which together, could become the river’s most prolific fish spawning and nursery area.”

We are grateful to the many public and private partners who worked collaboratively to make this project a reality, providing everything from funding and project management to planting native seedlings.”

-Mary Bohling, Detroit River Public Advisory Council and Educator, Sea Grant Program at MSU Extension



AFTER

The still waters created by the newly installed rock will eventually colonize with wetland vegetation and serve as a refuge for young fish.

Partners:



Contact:

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