



## **State of the Strait Conference to be Held at University of Windsor on October 28, 2013**

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*Windsor, Ontario, Canada* – On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the University of Windsor will host the biennial State of the Strait Conference that will focus on **“Setting Ecological Endpoints and Restoration Targets.”**

Approximately 200 attendees are expected to learn about the progress being made on indicator reporting for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie, particularly setting ecological endpoints and restoration targets.

Agencies and scientists have studied the condition of the Detroit River and western Lake Erie for decades. However, until recently, most information has been presented as “time trend data” – a record of ups and downs through time, with little clear sense of whether long-term goals are being achieved.

However, at this meeting, talks will focus on true “indicators” - measurements that have sufficient data and have a sound scientific rationale to identify quantitative restoration targets and desired endpoints.

Speakers will describe how these targets and endpoints are being used to guide management programs like the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan, the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan, watershed management plans, and others.

Trends in these “state of ecosystem” indicators will be shown, to chart the progress and adequacy of establishing targets that will restore the Detroit River-western Lake Erie corridor where nearly seven million people live. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion of ‘next steps’ from both a science and management perspective.

“This conference and its theme of setting ecological endpoints and restoration targets are critically important to our Canada-U.S. efforts to restore and maintain the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of this shared ecosystem,” notes Dr. Jan Ciborowski, Canadian Co-

Chairperson of the Conference. “There are few places in the world where two countries work so closely together on transboundary restoration and conservation efforts.”

The State of the Strait is a one-day conference held every two years that brings together government managers, researchers, students, environmental and conservation organizations and concerned citizens from the United States and Canada to assess the status of the corridor and provide advice to improve research, monitoring, and management. The conference is a unique Canada-U.S. collaboration that alternates back and forth across the international border every two years in an effort to foster cooperative learning and comprehensive ecosystem-based management.

Researchers, managers, and concerned citizens have a long history of convening successful State of the Strait Conferences. The themes of these conferences have ranged from "Rehabilitating and Conserving Detroit River Habitats" in 1998 to “Use of Remote Sensing and GIS to Better Manage the Huron-Erie Corridor” in 2011. For more information about the State of the Strait conference, please visit **[www.stateofthestrail.org](http://www.stateofthestrail.org)**

Sponsors of the 2013 State of the Strait Conference include: University of Windsor, Eastern Michigan University, International Association for Great Lakes Research, Environment Canada, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, City of Windsor, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Michigan Sea Grant, Friends of the Detroit River, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, International Joint Commission, DTE Energy, CDM, Canadian Consulate, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Detroit Audubon Society, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For questions, please contact:

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