

US Geological Survey
Fish Sampling Activities on the Detroit River
2006

Fish habitat restoration in the Detroit River will be the focus two research projects being conducted by scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center this spring and summer. Dr. Bruce Manny and his colleagues will be conducting fish spawning studies on natural and artificial reefs near Belle Isle beginning in April. Dr. Manny's work will examine egg deposition and survival on reefs installed on the east side of Belle Isle. In 2005, eggs and spawning adults from several species of fish were found on the reefs including walleye, yellow perch, and suckers. Sampling gear for this project will be left in the river from April through May and marked with buoys and floats. Boaters and anglers should avoid the area east of Belle Isle between the island and the main channel where the sampling gear is located.

The second project will be led by Dr. Ed Roseman who will be sampling larval fish at several sites in lower Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and western Lake Erie. Dr. Roseman's study will determine which species of fish larvae are found in the river including their abundance, distribution, growth, survival, and in-river habitat use. Dr. Roseman and his team of researchers will visit several sites in the river once each week using a marked federal research vessel. They will tow small nets behind the boat to collect fish larvae. Sampling at each site will take about 20 minutes and the researchers ask that anglers and boaters give them sufficient room to conduct their work. Together, these two research projects will provide valuable information necessary for the continued restoration of fish habitat and populations in the Detroit River.