US Army Corps of Engineers®

Sturgeon Spawning Shelf for Sault Ste. Marie Hydropower Tailrace

Project Location: Soo Locks Facility, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Project Description: Within the 50 mile long St. Marys River system, the only areas of the river that have suitable flows (approximately 3 ft. per second) for fish spawning are within the Federal navigation channel, in the hydropower plant tailrace, and over the St. Marys Rapids during certain times of the year. The dredged navigation channel is not suitable for Sturgeon egg incubation as it is essentially free of cobble beds and rocks. The scope of this project includes armoring a 2,800 foot length of the hydropower plant tailrace side slopes in a stepped manner to create a spawning shelf for use by sturgeon. This location is ideal for sturgeon spawning as the power plant tailrace consistently has suitable flows rates for spawning and upon construction of this project would also have ideal spawning substrate. This project is authorized under Operations and Maintenance.

Non-Federal Partner: N/A

Project Benefits: 2,800 feet of sturgeon spawning habitat

Project Status: Flow modeling efforts are in progress.

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	1,100,000
Non-Federal	0
Total	1,100,000

Project Milestones	
Complete Flow Modeling	Sep 2015
Complete Design	Dec 2017
Award of Construction Contract	Sep 2018

Point of Contact
Josh Hachey, 313-226-4549, Joshua.J.Hachey@usace.army.mil

Great Lakes RESTORATION

Last Updated: 16-Aug-18