St. Lawrence Environment Trustee Council (SLETC)

St. Lawrence NRDA Preferred Lost Human Services Restoration Projects

November 2012

Site History

The Alcoa Aggregation (now Alcoa West), Reynolds Metal Corporation (formerly RMC, now Alcoa East) and the General Motors Central Foundry Division (GM) Sites are located on the St. Lawrence, Grasse and Raquette Rivers. The Alcoa Sites are active aluminum production plants, but the GM site is closed and formerly manufactured aluminum cylinder heads. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), the primary contaminant of concern, were used in hydraulic fluid and electrical equipment at the GM and RMC plants since the late 1950s and at ALCOA West likely since the 1930s.

Fish Consumption Advisories (FCAs)

Since 1984 a variety of FCAs have been issued for rivers in the assessment area due to PCBs. These FCAs are expected to continue well into the future. The FCAs have impacted recreational anglers by reducing the quality of fishing opportunities in the assessment area.

Identifying Preferred Restoration Projects

Trustees solicited restoration project ideas from government, public and non-governmental organizations familiar with the St. Lawrence River ecosystem. The trustees then vetted ideas for restoration projects through evaluation criteria, identifying preferred recreational fishing compensation projects. These preferred projects will soon go through a public review process. Preferred projects will be described in the Restoration Compensation and Determination Plan.

Recreational Projects: New and Improved Boating/Fishing Access on the Raquette River

Addressing Injuries to: Lost recreational opportunities (trips lost and diminished value) due to fish advisories.

Project: Improve the existing boat launch along the Raquette River at Massena Springs and create new access at Massena.

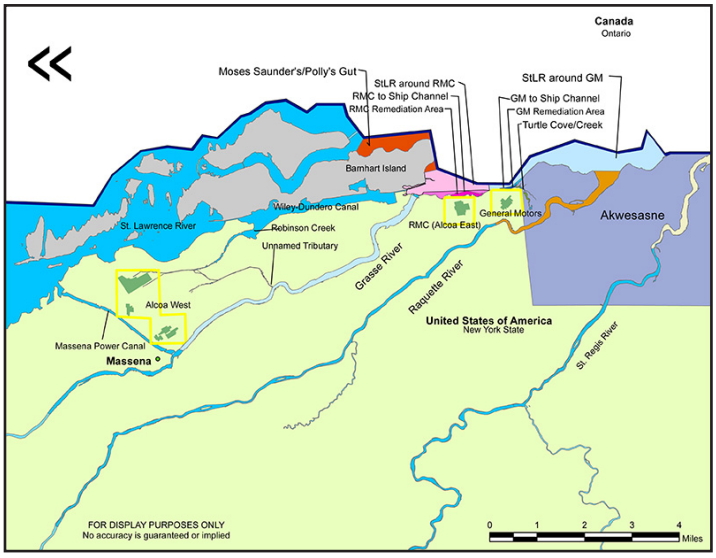
Benefits: Enhanced and expanded access to fishing (shoreline and boats) and boating on the Raquette and St. Lawrence Rivers, provide safer access and recreational conditions, education, wildlife viewing.

Natural Resource Trustees for St. Lawrence NRDA

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- New York State
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Injuries

- 221,000 lost fishing trips



Map of assessment area.

At Springs Park, reconstruction of a one-lane concrete boat launch and improvements to the paved parking area near the launch, including provision of car-top boat launching access. The existing launch is in disrepair.

On the Lower Raquette River, construction of a one-lane concrete boat launch, an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant shore fishing pier, a crushed stone access road, a parking area for five to 10 vehicles, provision of car-top boat launching access and an ADA-compliant walkway from the parking lot to the pier.

Recreational Projects: New Boating/ Fishing Access on the Grasse River

Addressing Injuries to: Lost recreational opportunities (trips lost and diminished value) due to fish advisories.

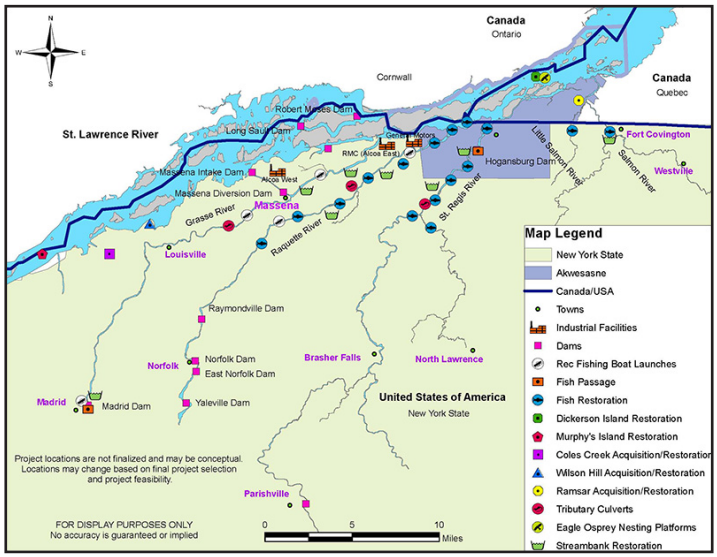
Project: Create three new boat launches and shoreline fishing access points along the Grasse River at Madrid and in Massena at Rte. 37 and Rte. 131.

Benefits: Enhanced and expanded access to fishing (shoreline and boats) and boating on the Grasse and St. Lawrence Rivers, provide safer access and recreational conditions, education, wildlife viewing.

Evaluation Criteria

In order to ensure the appropriateness and acceptability of restoration options addressing ecological losses, the Trustees evaluated each option against site-specific restoration requirements and DOI damage assessment regulations.

- Enhancement of recreational fishing opportunities in the Massena area.
- Compatibility with State fisheries agencies' management objectives.
- DOI NRDA Criteria (43 C.F.R. §11.82(d)).



Map of preferred restoration projects.

At Upper Grasse River, construction of a one-lane concrete launch (including providing car-top boat launching access), an ADA-compliant shore fishing pier, an ADA-compliant walkway, and a crushed stone access road and parking area for 5 to 10 vehicles.

At mid-Grasse River, construction of a one-lane concrete launch (including providing car-top boat launching access), an ADA-compliant shore fishing pier, an ADA-compliant walkway, a crushed stone access road, and parking area for 5 to 10 vehicles.

At lower Grasse River, construction of a one-lane concrete boat launch, a floating dock, ADA-compliant shore fishing pier/ walkway, a crushed stone access road and a paved parking area for five to 10 cars and 10 to 15 trucks/trailers. May not be available for public use until after the Grasse River remediation has been completed.

For more information on the St. Lawrence NRDA, contact:

SRMT: Barbara Tarbell
barbara.tarbell@srmt-nsn.gov; 518-358-5937
www.srmtenv.org

USFWS: Anne Secord
anne_secord@fws.gov; 607-753-9334
www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/nrda.htm

NYSDEC: Sharon Brooks
slbrooks@gw.dec.state.ny.us; 518-402-8852
www.dec.ny.gov

NOAA: Lisa Rosman
lisa.rosman@noaa.gov; 212-637-3259
www.darrp.noaa.gov/northeast/lawrence/index.html