The Role of Conservation Partnerships in Advancing Freshwater Science and Management

This BRIDGES cluster highlights three case studies where engagement and powersharing among scientists, natural resource managers, non-profit organizations, regulatory agencies, industry, and community members has improved understanding and management of freshwater ecosystems and resources. Key findings include:

- Alternative approaches for the “Transfer of Knowledge”, proposed by van Kerkhoff and Lebel (2006), may be more effective than traditional methods in addressing complex environmental issues in freshwater science (Stelzer and Kashian 2014).

- Engaging and educating stakeholders in contaminant transfer issues and fish consumption advisories improved research outcomes by enhancing information transfer and focusing outcomes on stakeholder needs (Kashian et al. 2014).

- Inclusion of an agency-guided community volunteer program resulted in an expanded monitoring program for lakes and streams that produced reliable and meaningful water quality data (Latimore and Steen 2014).

- The integration of stakeholders to minimize the negative effects of stormwater runoff into an adjacent lake allowed for the development of cost-sensitive solutions to stormwater management (Isely et al. 2014).

- Collaborative partnerships can strengthen a state’s ability to preserve and manage their regional environmental resources; yet, challenges remain in the implementation of proposed solutions to environmental problems in local communities (Isely et al. 2014).

Shoreline angler reading an "Eating Fish from the Detroit River" sign developed as part of the outreach and education efforts from stakeholder collaborations outlined in Kashian et al. (2014).

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