

East Channel Habitat Project, La Crescent, Minn./Wis.

Location/Description

The project area encompasses several small bays and side channels on both the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of the Mississippi River navigation channel. I-90 Bay is on the Minnesota side and East Channel is on the Wisconsin side, about a half mile downstream of Lock and Dam 7. The sites lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

At I-90 Bay, erosion of a peninsula jeopardized the fishery resources of upper pool 8. At Lower Island 98 and Minnesota Island, erosion contributed to long-term loss of island habitat. These islands also maintained the East Channel as a large side channel. The areas downstream provide high quality overwintering habitat and spawning area for walleye.

The project consisted of using rockfill to restore and stabilize 600 feet of the peninsula at I-90 Bay and 900 feet of shoreline along Lower Island 98 and Minnesota Island. The work restored 8 acres of fish habitat, which protects walleye and northern pike, and preserved 11 acres of wooded island for habitat diversity.



Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1996 and was completed in June 1997. The project was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance in November 1997.

Authority

The East Channel Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program and constructed in accordance with a definite project report dated September 1995. The Environmental Management Program was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent federal because the project is on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$558,000

Non-federal cost \$0

Total cost \$558,000