

Freshwater Science BRIDGES

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Fact Sheet



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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