

Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

Some of the work we do to preserve and protect the River, now . . . and for generations to come

Since 1978 Save The River has been the leading environmental organization fighting for the ecological integrity of the St. Lawrence River and is committed to continue to be a forceful advocate for policies and programs that promote clean water protections and to resist those that eliminate or weaken them.



Advocacy

Defending Clean Water Protections - Clean water protections that we have relied on in our efforts to restore and protect the St. Lawrence River are being challenged. Save The River will vigorously defend the laws and regulations necessary to prevent any reversal in the health of the River, will continue to advocate for compliance with environmental laws, respond to citizen concerns, and identify and fight new threats to the River as they arise.

Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species -

Save The River is working to stop the introduction and movement of aquatic invasive species in the River and Great Lakes by advocating for the most rigorous measures achievable to prevent new introductions including fighting efforts to remove EPA jurisdiction over ballast water discharges. With others we are working to stop the spread of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes and eventually the River.

Oil Shipments on the River - Our River is being marketed as a “Highway H2O” over which to ship highly volatile Bakken crude oil and extremely difficult to handle Alberta tar sands oil. Save The River will challenge the transport of unrecoverable if spilled and highly volatile cargoes, until and unless safety and response measures that have been clearly demonstrated to be effective are in place.



Education

Save The River In the Schools - Save The River partners with area school districts to bring the St. Lawrence River into the classroom, educating area school children about the River, its fragility, and the importance of its protection. The program also includes an “On the Water” field trip experience that gets many of the students on the River for the first time and allows them to do hands-on science while there.

Riverkeeper & Jr. Riverkeeper Monitoring Programs - Save The

River trains volunteers of all ages to be important eyes and ears on the River and to report incidences of potential pollution problems, wildlife die offs, and subtle changes in the River ecosystem that can indicate changes in the health of the River. Incidents volunteers spot can be reported and viewed at Save The River’s online reporting system, report.savetheriver.org.



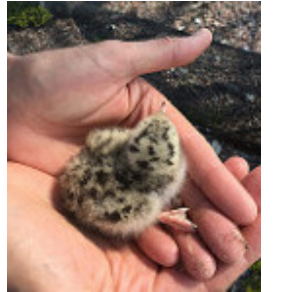
Shoal Marking Program - With many volunteers, and in partnership with the Thousand Islands Association, Save The River marks over 90 of the more treacherous shoals in the River between Cape Vincent and Ogdensburg. The shoal marking program helps heighten boaters’ awareness of unseen hazards in the water and remind them to always use navigation charts when on the River.

Research



BeachWatch - Every summer, Save The River volunteers sample the water quality at popular swimming beaches to be tested for bacterial levels. The results are published weekly in numerous outlets including the international SwimGuide app.

Common Tern Restoration - With the Thousand Islands Land Trust, Save The River restores habitat for this small colonial water bird which is listed as threatened in New York. Volunteers adopt a nesting colony and check it once a week, recording nesting information such as the number of eggs, nests and chicks - data which is used to help measure the success of restoration strategies.



Catch and Release - Since 1987 Save The River has worked with researchers at the Thousand Islands Biological Station on a research collection and incentive program that encourages fishermen to protect the St. Lawrence River’s iconic, but threatened, muskellunge. Anglers who catch and release a legal-size muskie are presented an exclusive Michael Ringer print. In 2013, the catch and release program was expanded to include bass to improve the quality and sustainability of the River’s renowned bass fishery.



For almost 40 years Save The River has been the “Voice for the River”
In that time, we’ve achieved tremendous successes.

Our successes have always come with the help of an engaged and invested community of members and supporters - individuals, families, visitors, businesses and others who realize a healthy River means healthy communities.

Just a few of our successes: ending the threat of year-round commercial shipping ♦ securing a modern water levels plan to restore wetlands, habitat & key species ♦ programs that stabilized muskellunge & restored common tern populations ♦ educating thousands of students & getting many of them onto the River - some for the first time ♦ training hundreds of adults & young people in how to spot potential threats to the River ♦ being a key partner in efforts to clean up the Great Lakes - the source of 95% of the River’s water ♦ and more

But the work is not finished, the River’s voice must not go silent
The River faces new and renewed challenges.

Programs and policies are being threatened with dramatic reductions or outright elimination at a time when existing threats are still unresolved and new threats are emerging.

Some of the challenges: attacks on Plan 2014 ♦ the possibility of highly volatile Bakken or tar sands crude being shipped on the River ♦ permitting of a nuclear waste repository in Ontario ♦ continued dumping of billions of gallons of untreated waste to the River & Lakes ♦ microplastic / microfiber pollution ♦ the passage of laws to: remove EPA jurisdiction over ballast water, eliminate citizen suits under the Clean Water Act; overturn the Clean Water Rule; defund Great Lakes Restoration, Sea Grant; NOAA, NASA & EPA clean water, climate change & earth science programs ♦ and more

The River needs its voice now more than ever!
To remain the strong voice for the River,
Save The River needs your support!

Invest in a healthy River today

- ♦ if not already a Save The River member, please join
- ♦ if already a member, please consider increasing your membership contribution, or
- ♦ make a special donation

Use the enclosed card & envelope or go directly to <https://donate.savetheriver.org> with the QR code

THANK YOU!

