

## Lake Oscaleta Questions and Answers, 2015 CSLAP

**Q1. What is the condition of our lake this year?**

A1. Conditions in Lake Oscaleta were close to normal in 2015. Water clarity was slightly higher than usual, particularly early in the summer, and no shoreline blooms were reported.

**Q2. Is there anything new that showed up in the testing this year?**

A2. Chloride sampling results were typical of lakes with moderate to high impacts from road salt runoff, although no biological impacts have been measured. This may be consistent with the steady increase in conductivity.

**Q3. How does the condition of our lake this year compare with other lakes in the area?**

A3. Lake Oscaleta had slightly higher water clarity, and slightly lower nutrient levels and algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is comparable to the plant coverage in most of these nearby lakes.

**Q4. Are there any trends in our lake's condition?**

A4. Conductivity readings have increased over the last decade, perhaps related to slightly elevated chloride levels. Phosphorus readings rose slightly at the surface and lake bottom from 2007 to 2015, although this has not resulted in any other (apparent) trophic changes..

**Q5. Should we be concerned about the condition of our lake? Are we close to a tipping point?**

A5. Water quality conditions already indicated a potential susceptibility to blooms, but these may still occur. The rise in phosphorus may have exacerbated these conditions. Potential sources of conductivity (eroding materials) should be evaluated, given the small rise in conductivity over the last decade.

**Q6. Are any actions indicated, based on the trends and this year's results?**

A6. Individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to the water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties and runoff into the lake will help to improve lake health by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. This may be particularly important given the apparent rise in conductivity in recent years. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since nearby lakes harbor several invasive plants not presently found in the lake.

<b>Lake Use</b>				
<b>Potable Water</b>				Not applicable
<b>Swimming</b>				No impacts
<b>Recreation</b>				Algae levels
<b>Aquatic Life</b>				High pH
<b>Aesthetics</b>				Invasive plants
<b>Habitat</b>				Invasive plants
<b>Fish Consumption</b>				
	<b>PWL</b>	<b>Average Year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Primary issue</b>

 Supported / Good  
 Threatened / Fair  
 Stressed / Poor  
 Impaired  
 Not Known