

Lake Rippowam Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

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

A1. Conditions in Lake Rippowam were similar to those measured in previous years. Surface and phosphorus readings were slightly higher than usual, and water quality assessments were slightly less favorable, but most other indicators were close to normal in 2014. Unfortunately, relatively high algae levels continue to be common.

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

A2. The HABs testing includes information about the types of algae found in the water samples. These results showed open water algae comprise of an increasing percentage of blue green algae later in the summer, although this does not constitute bloom conditions. Some blooms are apparent along the shoreline, but these usually include a mix of algae species and do not appear to represent blue green algae blooms.

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

A3. Lake Rippowam had slightly lower water clarity, and slightly higher nutrient levels and algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is slightly higher than in most of these nearby lakes, and at times impact lake use. This may be due to the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil.

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

A4. Long-term trends are generally not apparent, although phosphorus readings rose slightly at the surface and lake bottom from 2010 to 2014, resulting in a slight increase in algae levels and drop in water clarity.

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

A5. The recent rise in phosphorus readings may indicate a longer-term trend, although this has not yet triggered blue green algae levels high enough to constitute blooms along the shoreline or in the open water. The lake may be approaching this tipping point.

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. 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.

Lake Use				
	PWL	Average Year	2014	Primary issue
Potable Water				Not applicable
Swimming				Algae levels
Boating / Fishing				Invasive plants
Aquatic Life				No impacts
Aesthetics				Algae levels
Fish Consumption				Not applicable

 Supported
 Threatened
 Stressed
 Impaired
 Not Known