

Lake Waccabuc Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

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

A1. Lake Waccabuc was slightly higher than normal in 2014, due to lower algae levels. There were also fewer and shorter duration shoreline algae blooms, although these were reported later in the summer than typically occurs in the lake.

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 green algae dominance when algae levels are lower, and blue green algae when overall algae levels are higher, particularly in early summer. Shoreline algae blooms are at times dominated by blue green algae. Water chestnut was found and hand removed in 2014.

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

A3. Lake Waccabuc had slightly higher water clarity, and slightly lower nutrient levels and algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is slightly higher than in many of these other lakes.

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

A4. Phosphorus and pH readings have been higher since the late 2000s, although phosphorus levels dropped in the last two years. The rise in phosphorus may have triggered a drop in water clarity over the same period, although this change was not statistically significant.

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 moderate to high susceptibility to blooms and improved habitat for invasive species, although blooms are not regularly reported in some years. The rise in phosphorus may have exacerbated these conditions.

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. The lake association should be vigilant about preventing water chestnut from becoming established in the lake.

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

 Supported
 Threatened
 Stressed
 Impaired
 Not Known