

Lake Waccabuc Questions and Answers, 2015 CSLAP

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

A1. The condition of Lake Waccabuc was probably close to usual in 2015; water clarity was slightly higher, but phosphorus readings were also slightly higher and algae levels were close to normal. There has been no new evidence of Brazilian elodea in the lake.

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

A2. Chloride sampling results are typical of lakes with moderate to high impacts from road salt runoff, although no actual impacts have been apparent.

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

A3. Lake Waccabuc had similar 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 readings have been slightly higher since the early 1990s, and plant coverage has increased over the same period (although these phenomenon are likely not directly connected). pH and conductivity have recently increased slightly.

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. Additional chloride sampling may help to show if high lake levels are representative of present conditions, and whether benthic or other biological impacts should be evaluated.

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	2015	Primary issue
Potable Water				Algae levels
Swimming				No impacts
Recreation				Algae levels
Aquatic Life				High pH
Aesthetics				Invasive plants
Habitat				Invasive plants
Fish Consumption				

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