

Grass Lake Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

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

A1. Water quality conditions in Grass Lake were similar in 2014 to those measured in previous years. Algae blooms, similar to those seen in the south end of the lake in 2014, and deepwater oxygen levels are the major issues in the lake. Weed growth was lower than normal.

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 mostly low open water algae levels that are usually comprised of a mix of algae. Shoreline and nearshore blue green algae blooms have been reported in the south end of the lake, but these have not exhibited measureable toxin levels.

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

A3. Grass Lake had similar water clarity, but lower nutrient levels and similar algae levels, than nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is usually comparable to the plant coverage in many nearby lakes, but was lower than normal in 2014.

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

A4. NOx readings have decreased, but there is no indication that this has otherwise affected the lake. Each of the other measured indicators has varied slightly from year to year, with some decrease in water clarity in the last three years. It is not yet known if the presence of blue green algae blooms at the south end of the lake represent normal conditions.

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

A5. Water quality conditions are usually favorable in the lake, but the lake appears to be susceptible to fall algae blooms in the south end of the lake. Lake residents should be on the lookout for shoreline blooms or any nutrient inputs that might be contributing to these blooms.

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

 Supported
 Threatened
 Stressed
 Impaired
 Not Known