

History of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program

October 2019

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) began as a pilot to establish a volunteer lake monitoring program in New York. The pilot program was funded with a small grant in 1985. New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) helped to secure the grant that purchased sampling equipment, sample analysis, and the hiring of a DEC CSLAP Program Coordinator. The DEC CSLAP Program Coordinator and NYSFOLA worked together to identify an interested group of lake associations and volunteers for the program.



The program was initiated in 1985 by DEC and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) to collect lake data, identify problems, and educate the public.

Twenty-five lakes kicked off the pilot CSLAP program. The first participants included public and private lakes, lakes represented by lake associations, and lakes within fish and game clubs and park districts. The lakes ranged in size from small ponds to large lakes and were located throughout New York.

Program participation was available to all NYSFOLA lake associations. The pilot program established the volunteer training, sample collection, processing, and reporting that continues today.

After the initial grant funds were expended, DEC and DOH established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that covered the cost of analytical services, equipment, supplies, shipping, and training (mostly associated with travel).