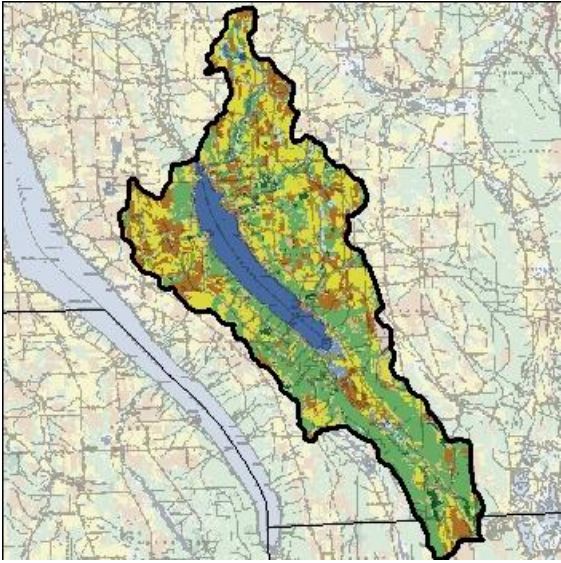
















Otisco Lake		Otisco Lake Preservation Association	Town of Spafford, Otisco	Onondaga County			
South Site (2)			Lake Characteristics		Surface area (ac/ha)	1877 / 685	
					Max depth (ft/m)	76 / 23	
					Mean depth (ft/m)	35 / 11	
					Retention time (years)	1.32	
					Lake Classification	AA	
					Dam Classification	C	
					Watershed Characteristics		Watershed area (ac/ha)
Watershed / Lake ratio	16						
Lake & wetlands %	11.9%						
Agricultural %	42.0%						
Forest, shrub, grasses %	41.6%						
Residential	4.4%						
Urban	0.0%						
		CSLAP Participation		Years	2017-2018		
				Volunteers	Jennifer Griffin and Ben Hardwick		
Trophic state		HABs Susceptibility		Invasive Vulnerability		PWL Assessment	
Mesotrophic		Infrequent blooms, Low susceptibility		Invasives present, High Vulnerability		Stressed	

Water quality values for Otisco Lake for the 2018 sampling season. “Seasonal change” shows current year variability. Light red color indicates eutrophic conditions in top table and bloom conditions in bottom table. Summer averages for each of the CSLAP years and long term trend analyses show trends in key water quality indicators over a consistent index period (mid-June thru mid-September).

Open Water Indicators	2018 Sampling Results								Seasonal change	Long Term Avg	Long Term Trend?	18 Diff from Avg
	6/20	7/5	7/16	7/31	8/15	8/29	9/14	9/28				
Clarity (m)	3.3	1.9	1.5	2.3	2.2	3.0	2.4	3.3		2.6	no	no
Surface TP (mg/l)	0.014	0.011	0.016		0.020	0.018	0.018	0.017		0.019	no	no
Surface TDP (mg/l)	0.004	0.004	0.006	0.005	0.007	0.008	0.003	0.005		0.005	no	
Deep TP (mg/l)	0.012	0.022	0.014	0.013	0.012	0.014	0.059	0.017		0.017	no	
Deep/Surface TP	1	2	1		1	1	3	1		1		
TN (mg/l)	0.848	0.819	0.777	0.674	0.362	0.492	0.501	0.529		0.673	no	no
TDN (mg/l)	0.814	0.663	0.740	0.686	0.437	0.588	0.519	0.302				
N:P Ratio	63	75	48		18	27	27	32		31		
Deep/Surface NH4												
Chl.a (ug/l)	3.1	8.8	7.6	6.3	8.1	2.8	10.0	4.9		7.3	no	no
pH	8.5	7.7	7.8	8.5	8.0	7.2	7.8	7.7		7.9	no	no
Cond (umho/cm)	441	359	362	412	351	365	318	250		346	no	no
Upper Temp (degC)	22	27	27	24	25	25	21	20		24	no	no
Deep Temp (degC)	18	23	20	22	24	23	20	20		21	no	no
FP BG Chl.a (ug/l)		4	4	1	2	2	2	1		1	no	no
HABs reported?	no	no	no	no	no	no	shore	no				

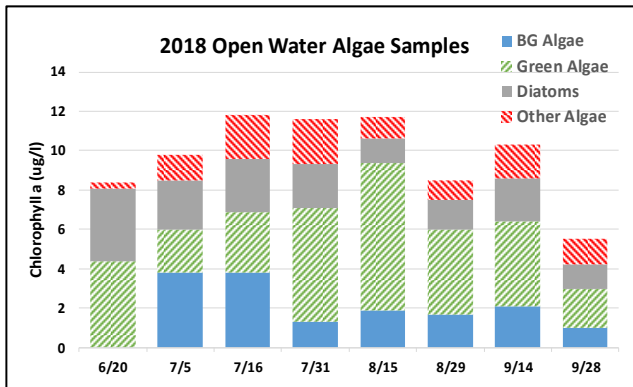
Shoreline bloom and HABs notifications

Date of first listing	Date of last listing	# weeks on the DEC notification list	# Weeks with updates
9/14/2018	9/14/2018	1	1

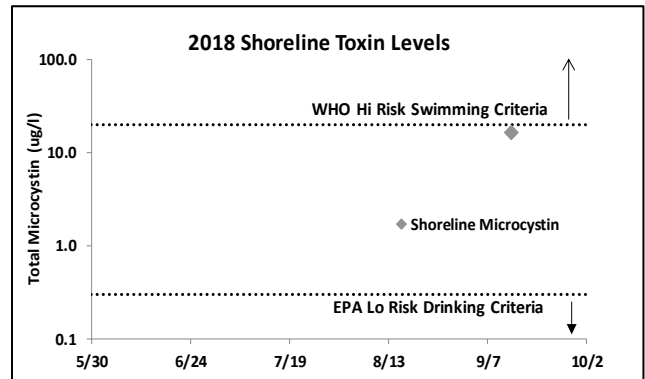
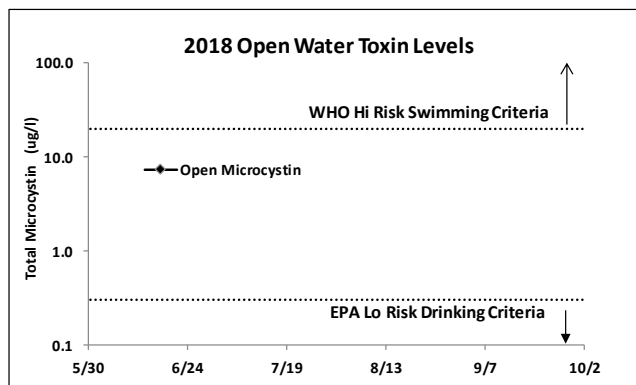
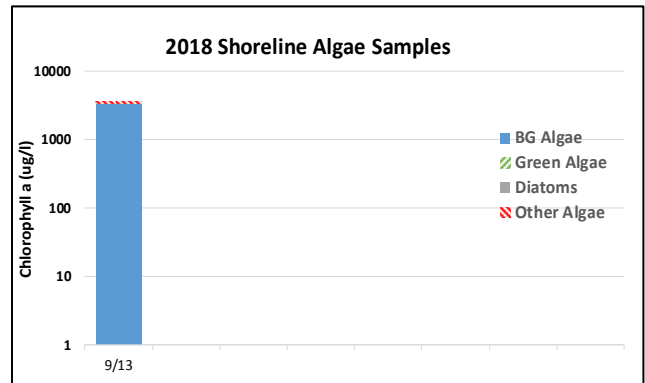
Shoreline HAB Sample Dates 2018

HAB Indicators	HAB criteria	9/13/2018
BGA	25 - 30 ug/L	3427.9
microcystin	20 ug/L	16.0
anatoxin - a	4 ug/L	

HABs Status Open water Algae

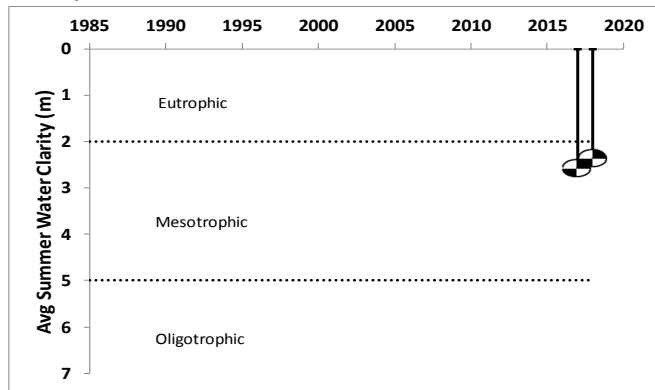


Shoreline Algae

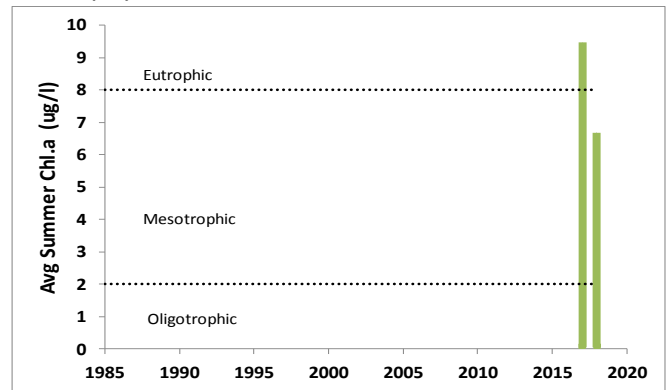


Otisco Lake South (S2) Long Term Trend Analysis

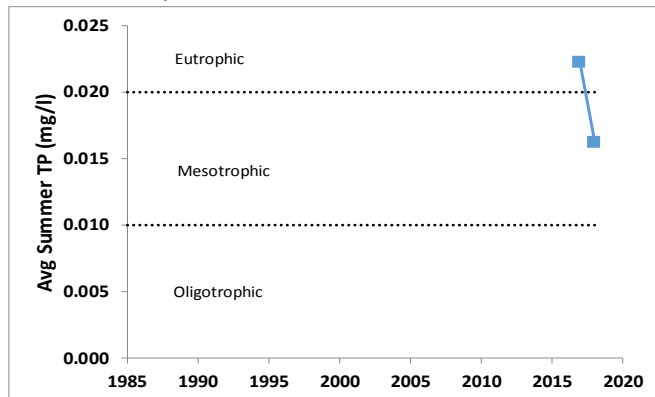
Clarity



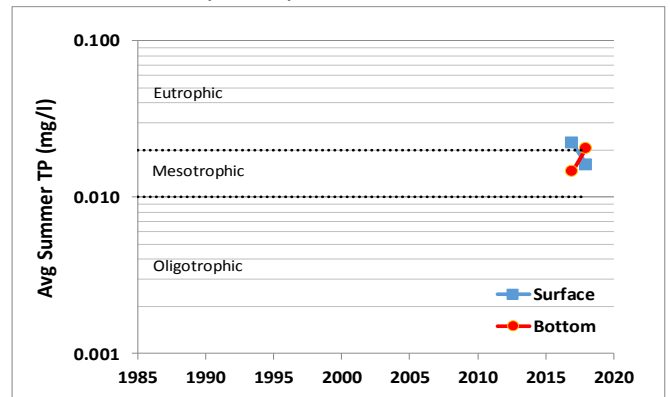
Chlorophyll *a*



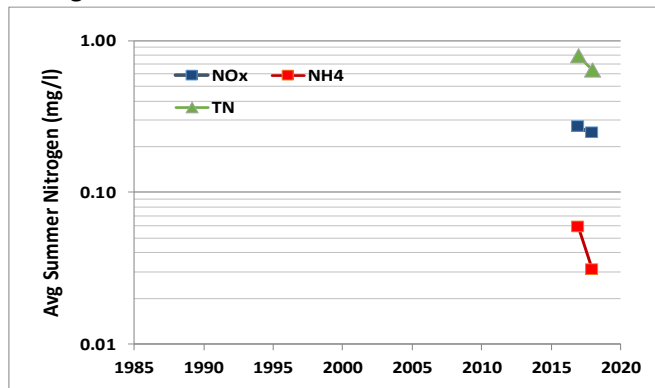
Surface Phosphorus



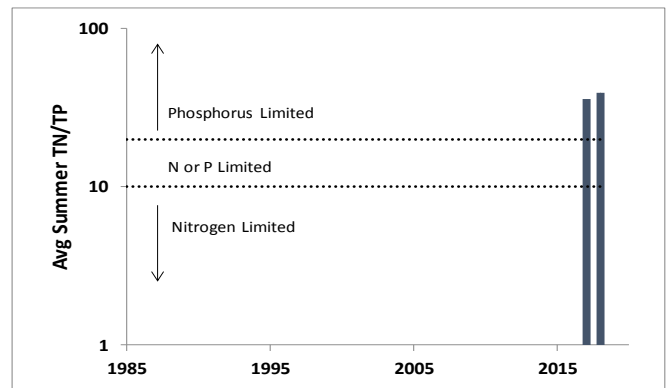
Surface and Deep Phosphorus



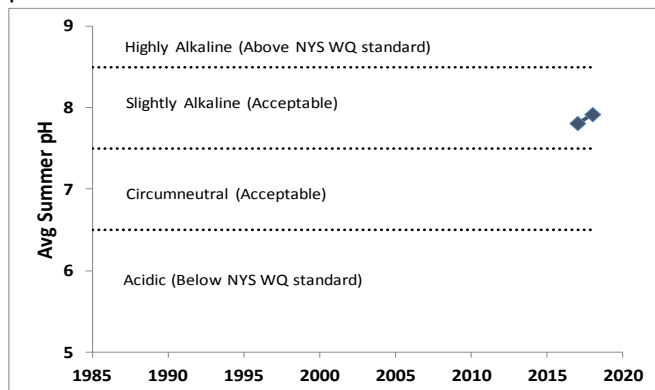
Nitrogen



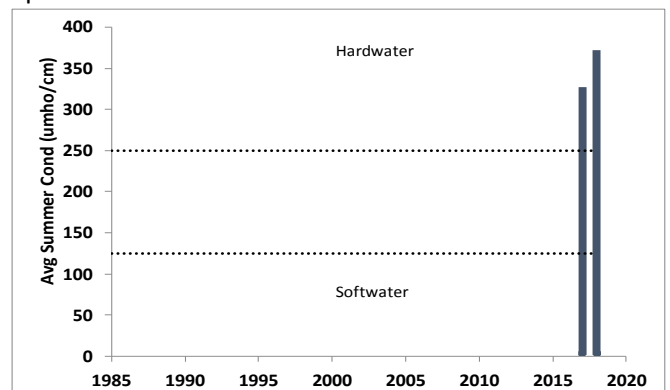
TN : TP



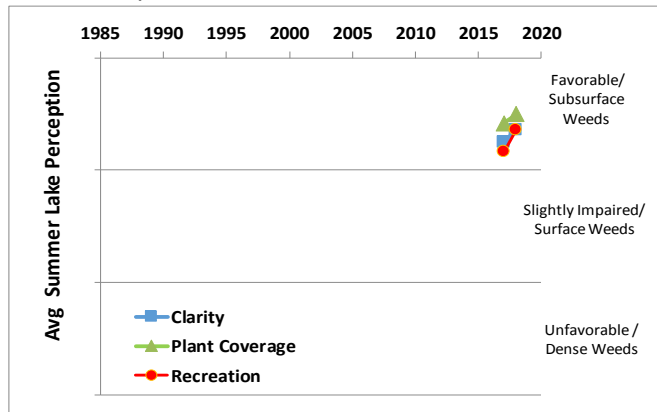
pH



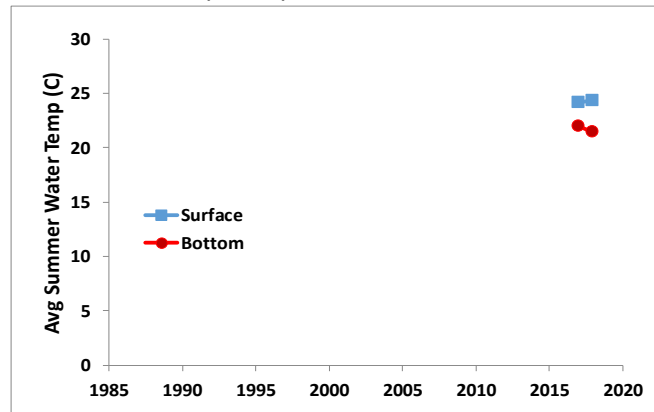
Specific Conductance



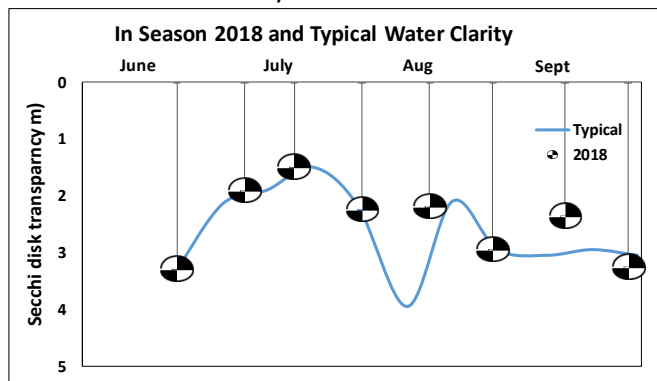
Lake Perception



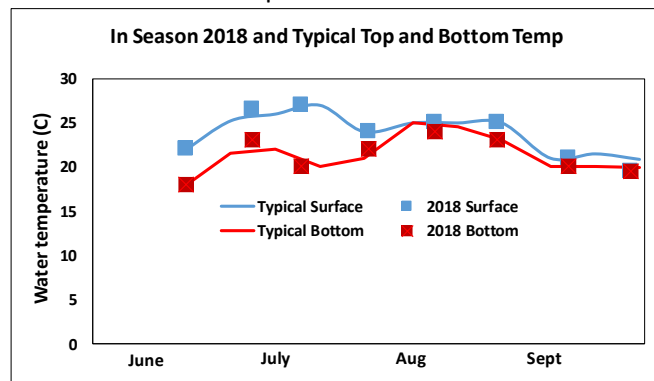
Surface and Deep Temperature



In Season Water Clarity



In Season Water Temperature



Scorecard

Lake Use				
	PWL	Average Year	2018	Primary issue
Potable Water	Threatened / Fair (Yellow Triangle)	Stressed / Poor (Red Diamond)	Stressed / Poor (Red Diamond)	Algae levels
Swimming	Not Known (White Square)	Supported / Good (Green Circle)	Supported / Good (Green Circle)	No impacts
Recreation	Stressed / Poor (Red Diamond)	Stressed / Poor (Red Diamond)	Threatened / Fair (Yellow Triangle)	Algae levels
Aquatic Life	Stressed / Poor (Red Diamond)	Threatened / Fair (Yellow Triangle)	Supported / Good (Green Circle)	Invasive animals
Aesthetics	Not Known (White Square)	Stressed / Poor (Red Diamond)	Threatened / Fair (Yellow Triangle)	Algae blooms
Habitat	Not Known (White Square)	Threatened / Fair (Yellow Triangle)	Threatened / Fair (Yellow Triangle)	Invasive plants
Fish Consumption	Not Known (White Square)	Not Known (White Square)	Not Known (White Square)	Not applicable

● Supported / Good
▲ Threatened / Fair
◆ Stressed / Poor
■ Impaired
 Not Known

CSLAP sampling summary- Otisco Lake South (S2), 2018

Q. What is the condition of the lake?

A. Otisco Lake (south site) continues to be mesotrophic, or moderately productive, based on moderate water clarity, moderate algae levels (chlorophyll *a*), and moderate nutrient (phosphorus) levels. Soluble nutrients were analyzed for the first time in 2018. Most of the phosphorus in the lake is not soluble, indicating a low potential for additional algae growth. Most of the nitrogen in the lake is soluble. The lake has slightly alkaline, hard water, low water color, and moderately high nitrogen levels.

Q. How did 2018 compare to previous years?

A. Phosphorus and algae levels were lower in 2018 than in 2017, although conductivity was higher. Annual changes are difficult to detect with only two years of data.

Q. How does this lake compare to other nearby lakes?

A. Compared to other nearby lakes, the south site of Otisco Lake usually has higher conductivity, calcium levels, and chloride levels, and lower chlorophyll *a* levels and phosphorus readings. Otisco Lake usually more favorable water quality and similar recreational assessments, and less extensive aquatic plant coverage.

The south sampling site on Otisco Lake has slightly higher algae (chlorophyll *a*) levels and slightly higher total nitrogen (TN) readings, but each of the other water quality indicators are similar at both sampling sites.

Q. Are there any (statistically significant) trends?

A. With only two years of data, long-term trends can't be evaluated.

Q. Has the lake experienced harmful algal blooms (HABs)?

A. Water quality conditions indicate a low susceptibility to blooms, with few reported blooms along the shoreline or in the open water. The open water algal community in the lake is usually comprised of low cyanobacteria levels. Overall open water algae levels are low to intermediate. Open water toxin levels are consistently below recreational levels of concern. Shoreline blooms have been documented in the lake, comprised primarily of cyanobacteria comprised of *Dolichospermum* and *Aphanizomenon*. The shoreline algal community exhibits periodically elevated toxin levels.

In 2018, overall algae levels were intermediate to high, with green algae the most common taxa in open water samples, and with low cyanobacteria levels. Open water toxin levels were undetectable. Shoreline blooms in 2018 were documented in the lake,

comprised primarily of cyanobacteria with elevated toxin levels (though below the DEC “high toxins” threshold). The most common taxa were *Woronichinia*, *Microcystis*, and *Dolichospermum*.

Q. Have any aquatic invasive species (AIS) been reported?

A. There are invasive plants reported or present at Otisco Lake, and invasives have been reported in nearby waterbodies. Invasive species reported in the lake include Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, curly leafed pondweed, and water chestnut. Fishhook waterflea, Asian clam, common carp, zebra mussels, scud, and green sunfish have been reported in Otisco Lake. Otisco Lake has high vulnerability for new invasives, based on calcium levels, the presence of multiple AIS, and some public access.

Q. Are any lake uses likely to be affected by these conditions?

A. Otisco Lake supports potable water, recreation and public bathing use. Public water supply is stressed by high frequency of algae levels above criteria protecting potable water use, and impacted by shoreline HABs and raw water cyanotoxins. Public bathing appears to be fully supported. Recreation is stressed by shoreline HABs and associated cyanotoxins, and excessive phosphorus levels. Aquatic life is threatened by the presence of invasive animals. Aesthetics are poor due to HABs, and impacted by excessive phosphorus levels, and by the presence of invasive aquatic plants. Habitat is fair due to the presence of invasive aquatic plants. Fish Consumption use is considered to be unassessed. There are no health advisories limiting the consumption of fish from this waterbody (beyond the general advice for all waters). However, due to the lack of actual fish sampling data, fish consumption use is noted as unassessed, rather than fully supported but unconfirmed.

How to Read the Report

This guide provides a description of the CSLAP report by section and a glossary. The sampling site is indicated in the header for lakes with more than one routine sampling site.

Physical Characteristics influence lake quality:

- Surface area is the lake's surface in acres and hectares.
- Max depth is the water depth measured at the deepest part of the lake in feet and meters.
- Mean depth is either known from lake bathymetry or is 0.46 of the maximum depth.
- Retention time is the time it takes for water to pass through a lake in years. This indicates the influence of the watershed on lake conditions.
- Lake classification describes the "best uses" for this lake. Class AA, AAspec, and A lakes may be used as sources of potable water. Class B lakes are suitable for contact recreational activities, like swimming. Class C lakes are suitable for non-contact recreational activities, including fishing, although they may still support swimming. The addition of a T or TS to any of these classes indicates the ability of a lake to support trout populations and/or trout spawning.
- Dam classification defines the hazard class of a dam. Class A, B, C, and D dams are defined as low, intermediate, high, or negligible/no hazard dams in that order. "0" indicates that no class has been assigned to a particular dam, or that no dam exists.

Watershed characteristics influence lake water quality:

- Watershed area in acres and hectares
- Land use data come from the most recent (2011) US Geological Survey National Land Use Cover dataset

CSLAP Participation lists the sampling years and the current year volunteers.

Key lake status indicators summarize lake conditions:

- Trophic state of a lake refers to its nutrient loading and productivity, measured by phosphorus, algae, and clarity. An oligotrophic lake has low nutrient and algae levels (low productivity) and high clarity while a eutrophic lake has high nutrient and algae levels (high productivity) and low clarity. Mesotrophic lakes fall in the middle.
- Harmful algal bloom susceptibility summarizes the available historical HAB data and indicates the potential for future HAB events.
- Invasive vulnerability indicates whether aquatic invasive species are found in this lake or in nearby lakes, indicating the potential for further introductions.
- Priority waterbody list (PWL) assessment is based on the assessment of use categories and summarized as fully supported, threatened, stressed, impaired, or precluded. Aesthetics and habitat are evaluated as good, fair, or poor. The cited PWL assessment reflects the "worst" assessment for the lake. The full PWL assessment can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/36730.html#WIPWL>.

Current year sampling results

- Results for each of the sampling sessions in the year are in tabular form. The seasonal change graphically shows the current year results. Red shading indicates eutrophic readings.
- HAB notification periods on the DEC website, updated weekly <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>
- Shoreline HAB sample dates and results. Samples are collected from the area that appears to have the worst bloom. Red shading indicates a confirmed HAB.
- HAB sample algae analysis. Algae types typically change during the season. These charts show the amount of the different types of algae found in each mid-lake or shoreline sample. Samples with high levels of BGA are HABs. The second set of charts show the level of toxins found in open water and shoreline samples compared to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.
- If there are more than ten shoreline bloom samples collected in a year, bloom sample information is instead summarized by month (May-Oct.) as minimum, average, and maximum values for blue-green algae and microcystin.

Long Term Trend Analysis puts the current year findings in context. Summer averages (mid-June thru mid-September) for each of the CSLAP years show trends in key water quality indicators. The graphs include relevant criteria (trophic categories, water quality standards, etc.) and boundaries separating these criteria.

In-Season Analysis shows water temperature and water clarity during the sampling season. These indicate seasonal changes and show the sample year results compared to the typical historical readings for those dates.

The Lake Use Scorecard presents the results of the existing Priority Waterbody List assessment for this lake in a graphical form and compares it to information from the current year and average values from CSLAP data and other lake information. Primary issues that could impact specific use categories are identified, although more issues could also affect each designated use.

The Lake Summary reviews and encapsulates the data in the lake report, including comparisons to historical data from this lake, and results from nearby lakes.

Glossary of water quality and HAB indicators

Clarity (m): The depth to which a Secchi disk lowered into the water is visible, measured in meters. Water clarity is one of the trophic indicators for each lake.

TP (mg/L): Total phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface). TP includes all dissolved and particulate forms of phosphorus. TSP, or total soluble phosphorus, was collected in 2018 and discussed in the lake narrative section.

Deep TP: Total phosphorus measured in milligrams per liter at depth (1-2 meters above the lake bottom at the deepest part of the lake)

TN: Total nitrogen, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface. TN includes all forms of nitrogen, including **NO_x** (nitrite and nitrate) and **NH₄** (ammonia).

N:P Ratio: The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus, unitless (mass ratio). This ratio helps determine if a lake is phosphorous or nitrogen limited.

Chl.a (µg/L): Chlorophyll a, measured in micrograms per liter. Indicates the amount of algae in the water column. This is an extracted chlorophyll measurement.

pH: A range from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic and 14 being the most basic or alkaline. A healthy lake generally ranges between 6.5 and 8.5.

Cond (µmho/cm): Specific conductance is a measure of the conductivity of water. A higher value indicates the presence of more dissolved ions. High ion concentrations (> 250) usually indicate hardwater, and low readings (< 125) usually show softwater.

Upper Temp (°C): Surface temperature, measured in degrees Celsius

Deep Temp (°C): Bottom temperature, measured in degrees Celsius

BG Chl.a (µg/L): Chlorophyll a from blue-green algae, measured in micrograms per liter. This is an “unextracted” estimate using a fluoroprobe. This result is not as accurate as the extracted chlorophyll measurement described above.

HABs: Harmful Algal Blooms. Algal blooms that have the appearance of cyanobacteria (BGA)

BGA: Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria

Microcystin (µg/L): The most common HAB liver toxin; total microcystin above 20 micrograms per liter indicates a “high toxin” bloom. However, ALL BGA blooms should be avoided, even if toxin levels are low.

Anatoxin-a (µg/L): A toxin that may be produced in a HAB which targets the central nervous system. Neither EPA nor NYS has developed a risk threshold for anatoxin-a, although readings above 4 micrograms per liter are believed to represent an elevated risk.