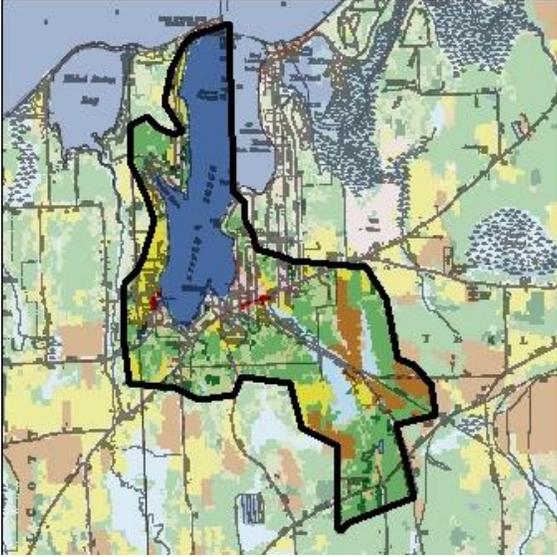


| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Little Sodus Bay | | Town of Sterling | Cayuga County |
|  Department of Environmental Conservation | | | |
|  | Lake Characteristics | Surface area (ac/ha) | 39 / 16 |
| | | Max depth (ft/m) | 12 / 4 |
| | | Mean depth (ft/m) | 6 / 2 |
| | | Retention time (years) | <0.1 |
| | | Lake Classification | C |
| | | Dam Classification | |
| | Watershed Characteristics | Watershed area (ac /ha) | 4363 / 1765 |
| | | Watershed / Lake ratio | 112 |
| | | Lake & wetlands % | 1.1% |
| | | Agricultural % | 0.0% |
| Forest, shrub, grasses % | | 0.1% | |
| Residential | | 92.1% | |
| LCI Participation | Years | 2016 | |
| | Samplers | David Kelley, Rebecca Gorney, Molly Detine, Scott Kishbaugh | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trophic state | HABs Susceptibility | Invasive Vulnerability | PWL Assessment |
| Mesotrophic | No reported blooms, Moderate susceptibility | Invasives present, High vulnerability | Impaired |

Water quality values for Little Sodus Bay for the 2016 sampling season. "Seasonal change" shows current year variability. Light red color indicates eutrophic conditions in top table and bloom conditions in bottom table.

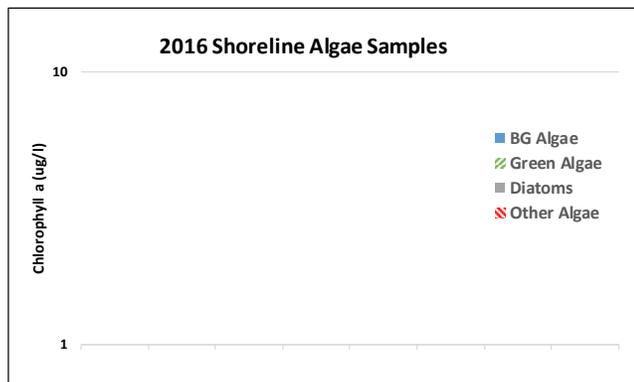
| Open Water Indicators | 2016 Sampling Results | | | | Seasonal | Long Term Avg |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|---------------|
| | 6/15 | 7/6 | 8/1 | 9/13 | | |
| Clarity (m) | 2.2 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.8 |  | 1.8 |
| TP (mg/l) | 0.018 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.013 |  | 0.029 |
| Soluble P (mg/l) | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.008 |  | 0.006 |
| Deep TP (mg/l) | 0.016 | 0.114 | 0.284 | 0.184 |  | 0.149 |
| Deep Soluble P (mg/l) | 0.007 | 0.079 | 0.247 | 0.161 |  | 0.124 |
| TN (mg/l) | 0.490 | 0.440 | 0.420 | 0.400 |  | 2.719 |
| Surface N:P Ratio | 28 | 29 | 31 | 30 |  | 92 |
| Deep to Surface NH4 Ratio | 5.0 | | 26.8 | 14.7 |  | 15.5 |
| Chl.a (ug/l) | 3.8 | 3.8 | 5.4 | 12.5 |  | 13.7 |
| pH | 8.3 | 8.4 | | 8.5 |  | 8.2 |
| Conductivity (umho/cm) | 324 | 317 | 311 | 305 |  | 292 |
| Total Organic Carbon (mg/l) | | | | | | |
| True Color (ptu) | 12 | 10 | 5 | 13 |  | 6 |
| Calcium (mg/l) | | | | | | |
| Deep Manganese (mg/l) | | | | | | |
| Deep Iron (mg/l) | | | | | | |
| Deep Arsenic (mg/l) | | | | | | |

Shoreline bloom and HABs notifications

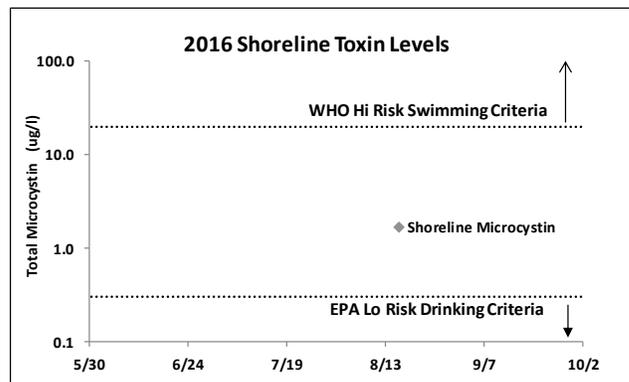
| Date of first listing | Date of last listing | # weeks on the DEC notification list | # Weeks with updates |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| None | None | None | None |

| HAB Indicators | HAB criteria | 6/15 | 7/6 | 8/1 | 9/13 |
|----------------|--------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| BGA | 25 - 30 ug/L | | | | |
| microcystin | 20 ug/L | | | | |
| anatoxin - a | | | | | |

HABs Status Shoreline Algae

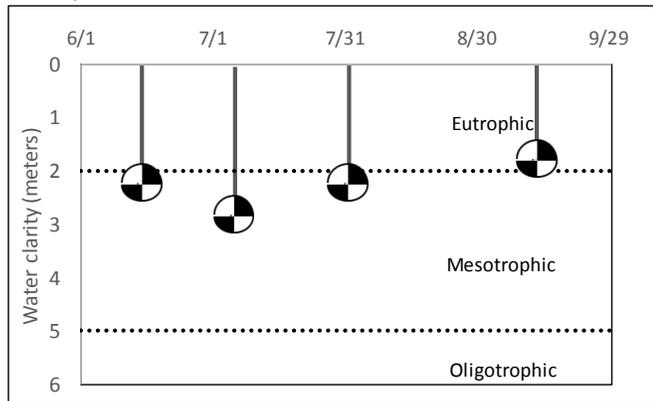


Shoreline Toxins

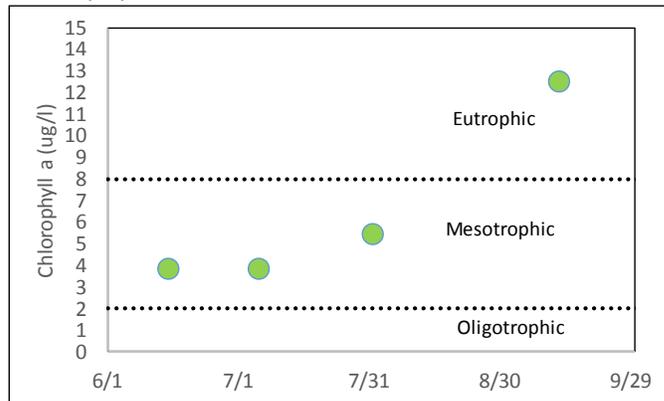


Seasonal Changes- Little Sodus Bay 2016

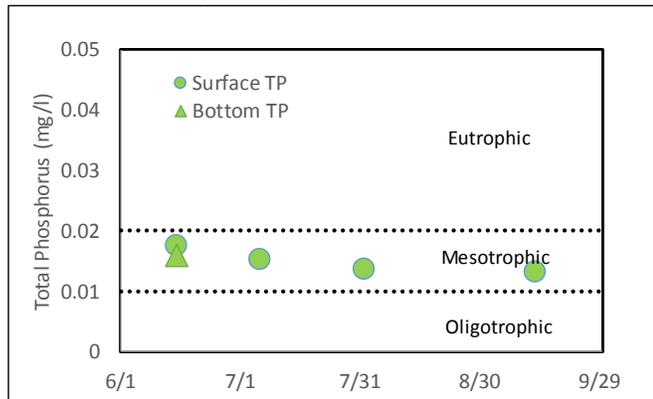
Clarity



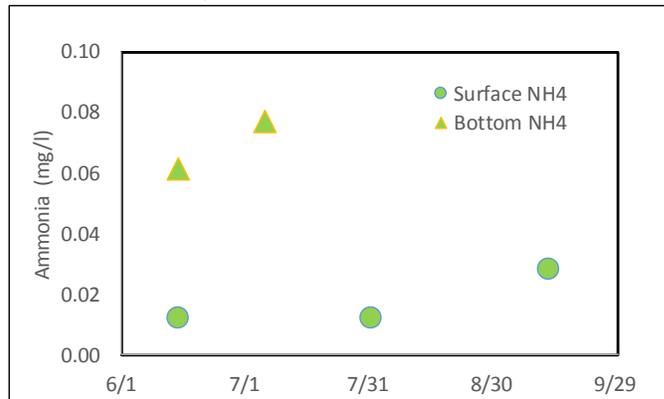
Chlorophyll a



Surface and Deep Phosphorus

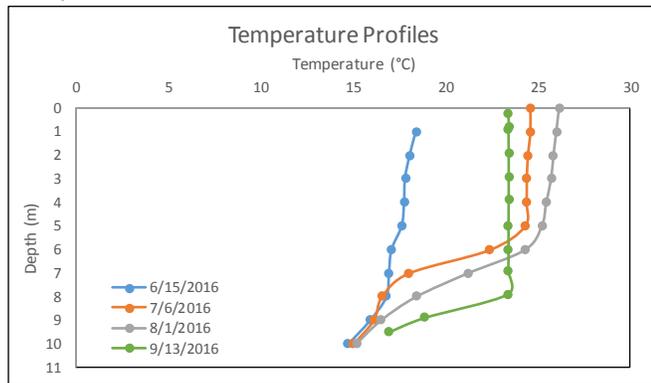


Surface and Deep Ammonia

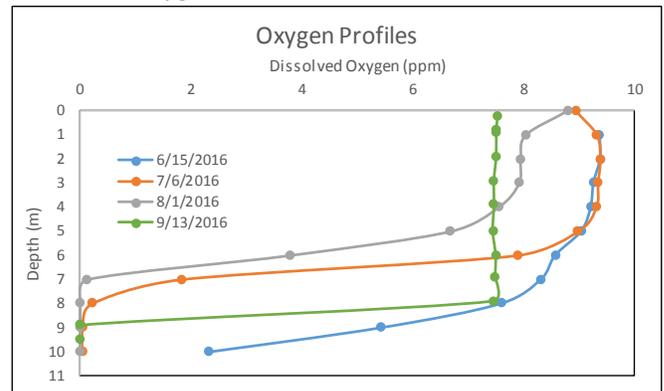


Depth Profiles- Little Sodus Bay 2016

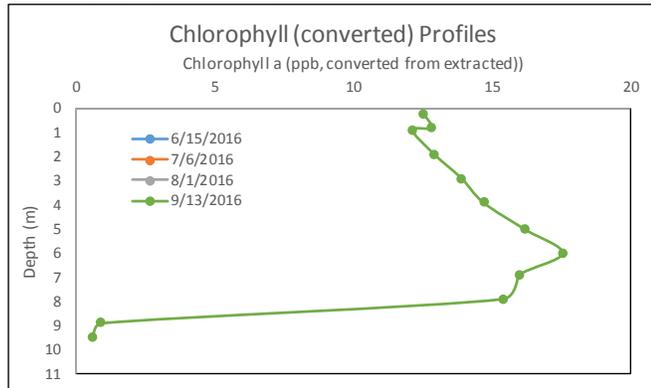
Temperature



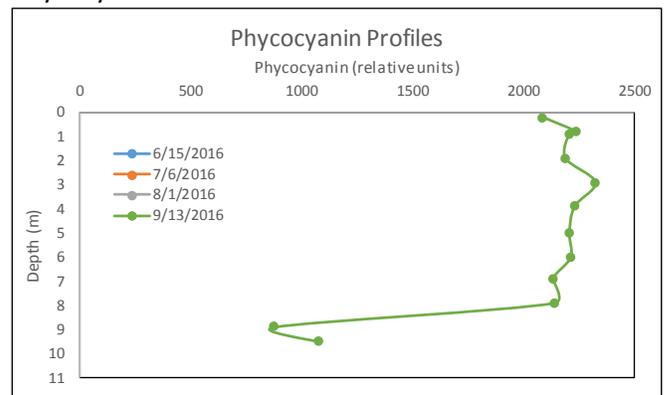
Dissolved Oxygen



Chlorophyll (corrected)



Phycocyanin



Scorecard

| Lake Use | | | |
|------------------|-----|------|-----------------|
| | PWL | 2016 | Primary issue |
| Potable Water | □ | □ | No impacts |
| Swimming | ■ | ▲ | Low clarity |
| Recreation | ■ | ◆ | Algae levels |
| Aquatic Life | ◆ | ▲ | Bottom Oxygen |
| Aesthetics | □ | ▲ | Poor perception |
| Habitat | □ | ▲ | Invasive plants |
| Fish Consumption | ◆ | □ | Not applicable |

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

LCI sampling summary- Little Sodus Bay 2016

What is the condition of the lake?: NYSDEC conducted routine (monthly) sampling of Little Sodus Bay as part of the DEC Lake Classification and Inventory (LCI) survey of the Lake Ontario drainage basin. Little Sodus Bay in 2016 could be characterized as a *mesotrophic* lake, based on moderate nutrient (phosphorus) and algae (chlorophyll *a*) levels, and moderate water clarity (Secchi disk transparency). However, historical data indicated eutrophic or highly productive conditions. The lake has highly alkaline water with hard water, moderate nitrogen (mostly organic) levels and low water color (brownness).

Do conditions change over the summer?: Lake productivity varied during the summer of 2016- water clarity decreases in response to seasonally increasing algae levels, although phosphorus readings decreased over this period. Conductivity decreased during the summer of 2016, but pH was relatively stable.

Do conditions change from surface to bottom?: Little Sodus Bay is strongly (thermally) stratified during the summer, with a well-defined barrier (thermocline) at about 6 meters between warm upper waters and cold lower waters. However, oxygen levels drop at shallower depths. As a result, deepwater phosphorus and nitrogen levels are highly elevated and increase during the summer. This is consistent with a hydrogen sulfide odor in the bottom samples indicative of anoxic (zero oxygen) conditions.

How do these conditions compare to nearby lakes?: Little Sodus Bay has slightly lower productivity- lower nutrient and algae levels, and higher water clarity- than many other lakes in the Lake Ontario region, and these conditions were more favorable than in other Lake Ontario embayments.

Have these conditions changed over time? Little Sodus Bay was sampled through the New York Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) from 1988 to 1995. The historical data found much higher lake productivity- much higher phosphorus levels, slightly higher algae levels, and much lower water clarity. This suggests that water quality conditions have improved over the last thirty years, although there is insufficient data to document any water quality trends.

Were any algal blooms or HABS observed or reported?: Water quality conditions indicated a moderate susceptibility to blooms, and no shoreline cyanobacteria blooms have been documented in the lake. It is not known if any blooms have occurred in the lake (Bay) in recent years.

Are there any aquatic invasive species on the lake?: Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, and curly leafed pondweed have been found in the lake, but it is not known if these invasive plants have affected lake use. Calcium levels are high enough to support zebra mussels, and these invasive mussels have been reported in the lake.

Were there any other observations?: Native plants were not reported during these sampling runs, but it is likely that many native plants are found in the lake.

Are any designated uses likely impacted by these conditions?: Little Sodus Bay supports significant recreational use from lakefront residents and visitors to the Bay. Algae levels were

historically high enough to impair the use of the lake for recreation and swimming, resulting in water clarity that at times was too low to support safe swimming. This is consistent with previous assessments that resulted in the lake being cited on the federal 303d list with a TMDL developed in 2007 (https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/tmdlphoslsod.pdf). However, it is not known if these conditions are still present in the Bay. Aesthetics may also be affected by periodic excessive algae. Aquatic life may be threatened by low oxygen levels near the lake bottom and habitat may be affected by invasive plants. Fish consumption is stressed due to the proximity to Lake Ontario and associated fish consumption advisories.

What actions, if any, are appropriate for consideration?: A buffer of native plants next to the lakeshore may help reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. In the rest of the watershed, stewardship activities such as pumping septic systems, reducing fertilization, shoreline erosion and channelized stormwater runoff, and other best management practices can also help to maintain or improve water quality. Some of these actions may already have been conducted at the lake. More information about in-lake algae control measures and watershed nutrient control measures to improve lake condition can be found in [Diet for a Small Lake](https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82123.html) (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82123.html>).

How to Read the Report

In order to make this lake report as easy to digest as possible for the typical reader, only the most critical information collected in the LCI is presented. We hope that presenting the data in a more succinct manner will draw in more readers and hold their attention. Unfortunately, this new format leaves little room for definitions of terms, so we are including this section primarily as a glossary of terms for which the typical reader may not know the definition.

The report begins with the lake name, town, and county. The next section contains some physical characteristics of the lake. The surface area is the two dimensional area of the lakes surface and is given in units of acres and hectares. The max depth is the water depth measured at the deepest part of the lake and is given in units of feet and meters. The mean depth is either known from a rigorous study of the bathymetry of the lake or is calculated as 0.46 times the maximum depth and is given in units of feet and meters. The retention time is the time it takes for a drop of water to pass through a lake, given in units of years. The lake classification is a letter defining the “best uses” for this particular lake, based on the legal classification assigned by New York state. 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. The dam classification is a letter defining the hazard class of a dam if one exists. Class A, B, C, and D dams are defined as low, intermediate, high, or negligible/no hazard dams in that order. A “0” or blank indicates that no class has been assigned to a particular dam, or that no dam exists.

The next section contains some watershed characteristics including the watershed area in acres and hectares and the land use composition of the watershed. A watershed is the entire area that will drain to a particular lake and is constrained by the topology and hydrology of the land. The watershed area was calculated by the US Geological Survey “StreamStats” program. This area map was then used to calculate land uses from the most recent (2011) National Land Use Cover data on the NYSDEC ArcGIS mapping program. The map itself is

shown on the left side of the front page. In general, blue colors show water, green and light brown show forested or shrub land, yellow and dark brown are agriculture, and pink to red is developed land. The program participation section lists the years the lake has been sampled through LCI over a two year period, and the names of the DEC samplers conducting the work.

The next section includes four boxes. The trophic state of a lake refers to its nutrient loading and productivity- in other words, how much algae is produced, and the cause (nutrients) and outcome (changes in clarity) of this algae growth. 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 somewhere in the middle. For most lakes, the nutrient of concern is phosphorus. A more productive lake will support more plant life, which may be good for warmwater fish, but may lower the quality of the lake if growth becomes excessive.

The harmful algal bloom susceptibility section contains a summary of the available historical HAB data. Although the factors that lead to the formation of HAB's is not yet well-understood, a history of HAB occurrences and high nutrient levels may indicate a susceptibility in the lake that could result in more HAB events in the future.

The invasive vulnerability section indicates if aquatic invasive species (AIS) are found in this lake or in nearby lakes. Invasive species are non-native and tend to rapidly colonize a waterbody once introduced, leaving little space for native species. Lakes with invasives or near other lakes with invasives are vulnerable to introductions of new AIS.

The next section is the priority waterbody list (PWL) assessment section. The PWL is a statewide inventory of the waters of New York State that DEC uses to track support (or impairment) of water uses, overall assessment water quality, causes and sources of water quality impact/impairment, and the status of restoration, protection and other water quality activities and efforts. A PWL assessment is broken into categories that include the following: potable water, swimming or public bathing, recreation, aquatic life, aesthetics, habitat, and fish consumption. All of the categories except aesthetics and habitat are accessed on a scale to determine if each of the listed uses are supported. The scale goes from best to worst in the following progression: fully supported, threatened, stressed, impaired, and 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 for each lake can (or will eventually) be found on the DEC website by searching on "PWL" and the lake basin, at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/36730.html#WIPWL>.

The rest of the report contains a collection of tables and charts. A glossary of all the water quality and HABs indicators used in the plots and tables is included below. Of particular note are the seasonal change and average for the sampling season. There is also a seasonal change sparkline chart, which only shows the last year of summer trends. The average column summarizes the average of the last year of sampling results, with all samples weighted equally in the reported average. Data shown in these plots represent 0-2 meter depth integrated surface samples and grab samples collected one meter from the bottom in the deepest section of thermally stratified lakes.

The next table contains a summary of shoreline (and open water if appropriate) HABs data for the lake, along with the associated HAB notification information. If a HAB is suspected, a sample from the worst part of the bloom (usually along the shoreline) is collected and sent in for laboratory confirmation. A HAB notification is added to the HAB database where entries are updated on a weekly basis. Additional information- samples or visual reports- are used to update these listings. The HABs Status plots show the algal component (total algae and fractions associated with cyanobacteria (blue green algae), green algae, diatoms, and other algae, as measured by chlorophyll *a*, in any collected samples, and the associated levels of total microcystin. The shoreline toxin data graphs include the World Health Organization (WHO) high risk criteria to protect swimmers and the EPA low risk criteria to protect those using *treated* (not raw lake) drinking water.

The next section of the report shows seasonal changes in water clarity, (extracted) chlorophyll *a*, surface and deep phosphorus (if deep samples are collected) and surface and deep ammonia levels. Surface samples are indicated with round markers, while deep samples are shown as triangular markers. If multiple years of samples were collected, results from all samples are shown, with previous years data shown in red.

The depth profile section shows the water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, and phycocyanin (a measure of blue green pigments) as measured on a profiling electronic meter. Chlorophyll measures are “corrected” to reflect the expected extracted chlorophyll measurement based on the relationship between the surface integrated chlorophyll (extracted) data and the profiler unextracted data. As such, these results should be considered estimated relative values, and should not be compared to water quality criteria developed from extracted measurements only. Phycocyanin data are reported in relative units, although they are characterized as cells per mL.

The next section of the report includes Lake Use Scorecard. The 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 from LCI data and other lake information. The scorecard also includes a column that lists some primary issues that could impact specific use categories. Multiple issues could affect each designated use, but only the primary issue is listed.

The final section of the report is the Lake Summary. This includes a brief summary of the most recent LCI data for the lake, although there is some comparison to previously LCI data when available. It is essentially the same as the Q&A section of reports generated through the NY Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), and with the Lake Use Scorecard, represents perhaps the most easily understood single page summary of the LCI data for the lake. This was intentionally created as the last page of the report to allow easy copying and distribution to interested parties.

Glossary of water quality and HAB indicators

Clarity: 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: 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. Total phosphorus is a second trophic indicator for each lake.

Soluble P: Dissolved phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface, measured in water that passes through a 0.45 micron filter. It is an estimate of the amount of phosphorus available for biological uptake or growth, although available phosphorus is more accurately measured by soluble reactive P.

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)

Deep Soluble P: Dissolved phosphorus measured at depth, measured in milligrams per liter

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).

Surface N:P Ratio: The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus, unitless (mass ratio), in surface samples analyzed for TP and TN. This ratio helps determine if a lake is phosphorus or nitrogen limited.

Deep to Surface NH₄ Ratio: The ratio of ammonia measured in deep and surface samples; this is a surrogate for lake anoxia when these ratios are > 10

Chl.a (ug/l): Chlorophyll a, measured in micrograms per liter as chlorophyll extracted from surface water samples using reagents and a desktop fluorometer

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 and 9.

Conductivity: Specific conductance is a measure of the conductivity of water, measured as micromhos per centimeter and corrected to 25 degrees centigrade. A higher value indicates the presence of more dissolved ions that help conduct electricity. Conductivity results may indicate hard or softwater conditions with high ion concentrations resulting in hardwater.

Total (or Dissolved) Organic Carbon: Organic carbon measures the carbon (total or dissolved) in living material within the water, measured in milligrams per liter.

True Color is a visual measure of the brownness of the water, based on water passing through a 0.45 micron filter and compared to a visual series of standards developed from a platinum-cobalt standard (and thus measured as platinum units)

Deep Manganese, Iron or Arsenic measure total manganese, iron or arsenic levels in milligrams per liter in samples collected near the lake bottom. Elevated levels indicate anoxic conditions.

BG Chl.a (ug/L): Chlorophyll a from blue-green algae, measured in micrograms per liter. Readings above 25 ug/L are indicative of bloom conditions.

HABs Reported?: Were any algal blooms reported within a week of the dates listed, and, if so, were they located along the shoreline, in open water, or both?

BGA: Blue-green algae, as measured with a desktop or field fluorometer and reported as micrograms per liter of unextracted chlorophyll a

Microcystin: 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: Another type of toxin that may be produced in a HAB and may be more dangerous as it 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.