

Deer Lake Questions and Answers, 2015 CSLAP

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

A1. Water quality conditions in Deer Lake in 2015 were more favorable than usual. Water clarity was higher, due to lower nutrient and algae levels, resulting in more favorable water quality and recreational assessments. Plant coverage may have been reduced by the grass carp stocking.

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

A2. Chloride sampling results were typical of lakes with moderate to high levels of road salt runoff, although no biological impacts were reported or measured.

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

A3. Deer Lake has lower water clarity, and higher nutrient levels, than other nearby lakes, although overall algae levels were lower and shoreline blooms were not reported. Although water chestnut has recently been discovered, this invasive plant does not (yet) appear to have impacted recreational uses (perhaps due to grass carp grazing, although this is generally not a preferred species by this herbivorous fish).

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

A4. Algae levels have decreased over most of the last decade, resulting in improved water quality and recreational assessments. This may have triggered more growth of aquatic plants.

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

A5. Deer Lake has not exhibited extensive shoreline and open water blue green algae blooms, although algae levels are high enough to trigger blooms. It is not known if the reduction in overall algae levels has further decreased the susceptibility of the lake 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 are needed to reduce 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.

