LLLPRD LAKE QUALITY AND FISH STOCKING COMMITTEE REPORT, July 26, 2008

1. 2007 lake monitoring.

The results of the 2007 lake monitoring demonstrate stability of the parameters measured.

Long Lake - Deep Hole-Center Basin was sampled **9** different days during the 2007 season. Parameters sampled included:

- water clarity
- temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- total phosphorus
- chlorophyll

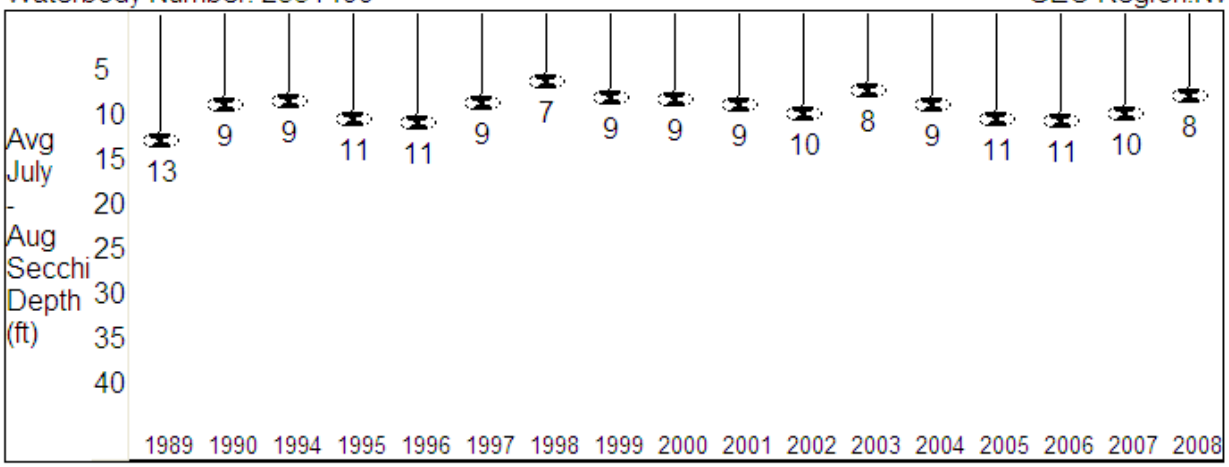
The average summer (July-Aug) secchi disk reading for Long Lake - Deep Hole-Center Basin (Chippewa County, WBIC: 2351400) was 10.38 feet. The average for the Northwest Georegion was 9.1 feet. Typically the summer (July-Aug) water was reported as **CLEAR** and **BROWN**. This suggests that the Secchi depth may have been mostly impacted by tannins, stain from decaying matter. Tannins are natural and not a result of pollution. Tannins can be distinguished from suspended sediment because the water, even though it's brown, it looks clear, like tea. Though tannins are not harmful per se, they are often not perceived as aesthetically pleasing as clear water. Tannins can also be important for decreasing light penetration into the water and decreasing algal growth.

Chemistry data was collected on Long Lake - Deep Hole-Center Basin. The average summer Chlorophyll was 2.9 µg/l (compared to a Northwest Georegion summer average of 17.6 µg/l). The summer Total Phosphorus average was 17.3 µg/l. Lakes that have more than 20 µg/l and impoundments that have more than 30 µg/l of total phosphorus may experience noticable algae blooms.

The overall Trophic State Index (based on chlorophyll) for Long Lake - Deep Hole-Center Basin was 43. The TSI suggests that Long Lake - Deep Hole-Center Basin was **mesotrophic**. Mesotrophic lakes are characterized by moderately clear water, but have a increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer.

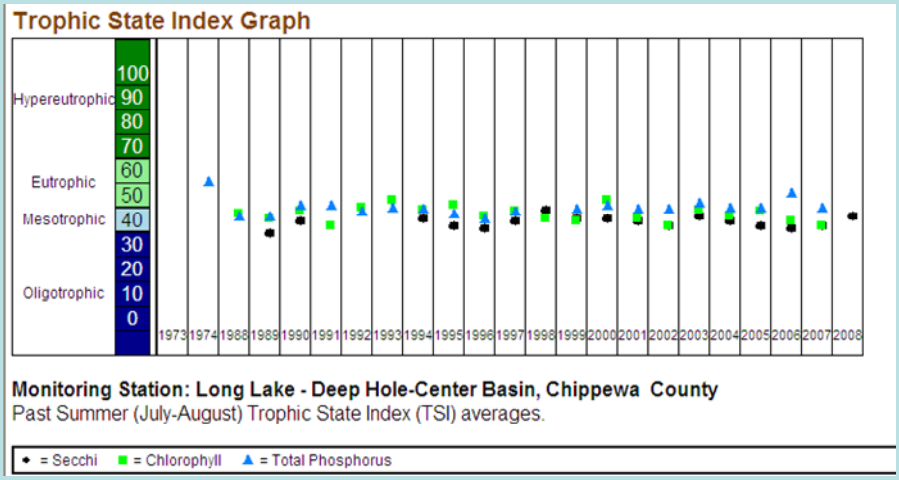
Long Lake
Chippewa County
Waterbody Number: 2351400

Lake Type:
DNR Region: WC
GEO Region:NW



Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

2007 Annual lake monitoring report



2. Crayfish studies.

Jo Heuschles study of the crayfish trapping of August 2007 were reviewed. 94 crayfish were trapped (all rusties). This compares to between 1313 and 2136 during the years 1981 and 1990(data on file with the committee). Trapping involves the use of three traps for each of 7 sites with collection being completed in a 24 hour period. Because it is still not clear what the impact of the crayfish has been on the lake, especially with regard to the evolving vegetation, the DNR and our board has asked that we continue to do an annual crayfish count. The count will be done using GPS coordinates. The information will be used to make future judgments on the impact of this invasive on our lake ecology. Chris Haller has agreed to accept the leadership in seeing that the studies are completed and was appointed by this committee for this purpose. The board has agreed with our allocating up to $300.00 for this project.

3. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The District is making application for a grant to assist in implementation of monitoring our public launch to help guard against and to educate the public on the potential spread of AIS

by boats moving from lake to lake. Invasive species include Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, hydrilla, zebra mussels, and viral hemorrhagic septicemia among others. Information on these species will be included as part of the committee report at the annual meeting and added to the LLLPRD website. Failure to avoid infestation would mean chemical treatment at up to $500,000 a treatment or the use of a weed harvester at a purchase price of $80,000 and requiring cutting weeds as often as every two weeks.

4. Fishery Report.

Periodic fyke netting has been performed on Long Lake by Joe Kurz of the Chippewa county DNR. Joe gave a wonderful report (which will be posted on the LLLPRD website) that indicates that the fishery is in the best shape ever. Rumors that the walleyes have declined were refuted by this report; the fact is that the presence of the burgeoning vegetation has provided sites for the fish to hide! Kelley Svoma raised the issue of increasing the size limit on smallmouth bass to 21 inches. This will be taken under advisement by Joe Kurz.

5. Shoreland restoration.

The district has become very active on this issue and has recently been accepted for a phase III grant for this purpose. Awareness of

this issue is increasing among lake owners and we would expect increasing success in this area which will have considerable impact on the ability of our shoreline to filter runoff. Phosphorus was again singled out as a major cause of poor water quality and it was agreed at this meeting that we need to continue aggressive educational activity to prevent the use of Phosphorus containing fertilizers. It was revealed that the state legislature had an opportunity to ban phosphorus use in fertilizers in Wisconsin, where soils have naturally high levels. The bill was passed by the House but defeated by the assembly. We need to keep pushing the passage of this legislation. It was agreed by this committee that Rob Kreibech and Jeff Wood should be invited to our annual meeting where we will be discussing this issue.

6. Boardwalk update.

Boardwalks in the wetlands

- Placed about two years ago, it is in violation of state and federal regulations applying to wetlands.
- The DNR has informed the owners that the structure needs to be removed. The owners are contesting that determination.
- An administrative hearing is pending.

Should we care?

• Wetlands are nurseries for marine wildlife.
• Wetlands serve as nesting areas for avian wildlife.
• Long Lake wetlands contribute to the beauty of our shoreline precisely because of their undeveloped status.
• These qualities require uninterrupted wetlands “wilderness”.

Administrators at the Wisconsin Wetlands Association tell me that this case will be precedent setting as no other case like it exists. Since our laws rely strongly on precedent, as Long Lake goes, so will the rest of the state.

DO WE WANT THIS TO HAPPEN?

The DNR has indicated that at least two additional areas on our lake are looking for similar rights to use wetlands as shoreline access.

More are sure to follow. It is agreed by this committee that we need to take a decisive stand against this type of development as we approach an era where marginal properties along the lake shore will be developed.

7. Adopt-a-lake program.

Len Seyberth will be working with Duane Fossum of the Bloomer High School to promote projects in cooperation with his students to involve them in lake issues. Len thought that the school would agree to cooperate in shoreland restoration projects and crib building. The committee agreed on the value of such a program and authorized Len to pursue projects costing up to $400.00, which would come from our portion of the annual budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Frase, Chair.