

2000 INTERPRETIVE SUMMARY

NEW YORK CITIZENS STATEWIDE LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (CSLAP)

EAGLE LAKE

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BACKGROUND AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is a volunteer lake monitoring program conducted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations. Founded in 1986 with 25 pilot lakes, the program now involves more than 125 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and 1000 volunteers from eastern Long Island to the Northern Adirondacks to the western-most lake in New York, including several Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, and lakes with state parks. In this program, lay volunteers trained by the NYSDEC collect water samples, observations, and perception data every other week in a fifteen-week interval between May and October. Water samples are analyzed by the NYS Department of Health. Analytical results are interpreted by the NYSDEC and utilized for a variety of purposes by the State of New York, local governments, researchers, and, most importantly, participating lake associations. This report summarizes the 2000 sampling results for **Eagle Lake**.

Eagle Lake is a 422 acre, class B lake found in the Towns of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in Essex County, in the southeastern Adirondack region of New York State. It was sampled as part of CSLAP for the first time in 2000. The following volunteers have participated in CSLAP, and deserve most of the credit for the success of this program at **Eagle Lake: Paul and Mary-Lloyd Burroughs and Rolf Tiedemann**.

In addition, the authors wish to acknowledge the following individuals, without whom this project and report would never have been completed:

From the Department of Environmental Conservation, N.G. Kaul, Sal Pagano, Dan Barolo, Italo Carcich, and Phil DeGaetano, for supporting CSLAP for the past fifteen years; Jay Bloomfield and James Sutherland, for their work in developing and implementing the program; the technical staff from the Lake Services Section, for continued technical review of program design; and Becky Bird for assistance in copying and distributing this report.

From the Federation of Lake Associations, Anne Saltman, Nancy Mueller, Dr. John Colgan, Don Keppel, John Miller and the Board of Directors, for their continued strong support of CSLAP.

The New York State Department of Health, particularly Jean White, provided laboratory materials and all analytical services, reviewed the raw data, and implemented the quality assurance/quality control program.

Finally, but most importantly, the authors would like to thank the more than 1000 volunteers who have made CSLAP a model for lay monitoring programs throughout the country and the recipient of a national environmental achievement award. Their time and effort have served to greatly expand the efforts of the state and the public to protect and enhance the magnificent water resources of New York State.

FINDINGS AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eagle Lake was sampled as part of the New York Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program for the first time in 2000. For all program waters, water quality conditions and public perception of the lake each year have been evaluated within annual reports issued after each sampling season. Historical water quality summaries of the CSLAP data have also been undertaken within each annual report. This report attempts to summarize both the 2000 CSLAP data and an historical comparison of the data collected within the 2000 sampling season and data collected at Eagle Lake prior to 2000.

Due to a delay in receiving phosphorus data from the analytical laboratory, and the resulting expediency required to get this information into the hands of the sampling volunteers, a preliminary assessment of the data is offered without a complete dataset. As such, any general assessments of lake eutrophication, and specific assessments of phosphorus must be considered preliminary, and may be subject to change with the benefit of a full dataset. Such an assessment, through either an addendum to this report or a complete reissue of the report, will be provided after the full dataset is received.

The majority of the short- and long-term analyses of the water quality conditions in Eagle Lake are summarized in Table 2, divided into assessments of eutrophication indicators, other water quality indicators, and lake perception indicators. These assessments, short the 2000 phosphorus data, indicate that the lake can be classified as oligotrophic, or unproductive. Water clarity is similar to the water transparency in other lakes with similar summer chlorophyll *a* readings, indicating that clarity is more influenced by algae than by color, depth, or inorganic material (the elevated chlorophyll *a* readings in the first sample does not appear to be representative of Eagle Lake). The measured (“background”) color readings are fairly low, representing natural and therefore “normally” low levels of organic material dissolved in Eagle Lake. pH and conductivity readings vary, although the former were consistently within the acceptable range (6.5 to 8.5) for most aquatic organisms, and the latter is typical of moderately softwater lakes. Nitrate levels were undetectable throughout the sampling season. This pattern is common to other lakes in this area, and it is likely that algal dynamics in the lake are more strongly influenced by phosphorus rather than nitrogen.

Lake perception is somewhat favorable (consistently identified as “slightly impaired” for most lake uses), perhaps coincident with the favorable “physical condition” of the lake (described as “not quite crystal clear”) and despite increasing height and perhaps density of aquatic plant (weed) populations (eventually growing to the lake surface). These assessments appear to be slightly less favorable than those in other lakes with comparable water quality (and aquatic plant) characteristics, suggesting that aquatic plant populations exert a stronger influence on the use of Eagle Lake than on other lakes with similar plant densities.

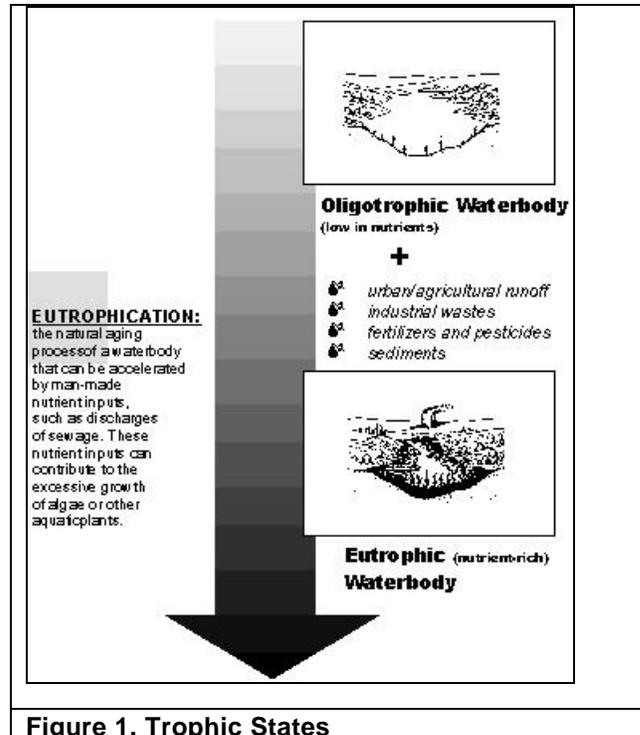
The most recent (1996) NYSDEC Priority Waterbody Listings (PWL) do not identify any use impairments for Eagle Lake. The 2000 CSLAP water quality and lake perception data suggest that *recreation* may be *stressed* by the presence and density of Eurasian watermilfoil growth, although additional perception data are necessary before recommending any significant PWL listing. The Upper Hudson Basin PWL designations will be formally evaluated in 2003.

I. INTRODUCTION: CSLAP DATA AND YOUR LAKE

Lakes are dynamic and complex ecosystems. They contain a variety of aquatic plants and animals that interact and live with each other in their aquatic setting. As water quality changes, so too will the plants and animals that live there and these changes in the food web also may additionally affect water quality. Water quality monitoring provides a window into the numerous and complex interactions of lakes. Even the most extensive and expensive monitoring program cannot **completely assess** a lake's water quality. However, by looking at some basic chemical, physical, and biological properties, it is possible to gain a greater understanding of the general condition of lakes. CSLAP monitoring is a basic step in overall water quality monitoring.

Understanding Trophic States

All lakes and ponds undergo **eutrophication**, an aging process, which involves stages of succession in biological productivity and water quality (see Figure 1). **Limnologists** (scientists who study fresh water systems) divide these stages into **trophic** states. Each trophic state can represent a wide range of biological, physical, and chemical characteristics and any lake may “naturally” be categorized within any of these trophic states. In general, the increase in productivity and decrease in clarity corresponds with an enrichment of nutrients, plant and animal life. Lakes with low biological productivity and high clarity are considered **oligotrophic**. Highly productive lakes with low clarity are considered **eutrophic**. Lakes that are **mesotrophic** have intermediate or moderate productivity and clarity. Eutrophication is a natural process, and is not necessarily indicative of man-made pollution.



In fact, some lakes are thought to be “naturally” productive. It is important to understand that trophic classifications are not interchangeable with assessments of water quality. One person's opinion of degradation may be viewed by others as harmless or even beneficial. For example, a eutrophic lake may support an excellent warm-water fishery because it is nutrient rich, but a swimmer may describe that same lake as polluted. A lake's trophic state is still important because it provides lake managers with a reference point to view changes in a lake's water quality and begin to understand how these changes may cause **use impairments** (threaten the use of a lake or swimming, drinking water or fishing).

When human activities accelerate lake eutrophication, it is referred to as **cultural eutrophication**. Cultural eutrophication may result from shoreline erosion, agricultural and urban runoff, wastewater discharges or septic seepage, and other nonpoint source pollution sources. These can greatly accelerate the natural aging process of lakes, cause succession changes in the plant and animal life within the lake, shoreline and surrounding watershed, and impair the water quality and value of a lake. They may ultimately extend aquatic plants and emergent vegetation throughout the lake, resulting in the transformation of the lake into a marsh, prairie, and forest. The extent of cultural eutrophication,

and the corresponding pollution problems, can be signaled by significant changes in the trophic state over a short period of time.

II. CSLAP PARAMETERS

CSLAP monitors several parameters related to the trophic state of a lake, including how clear the water is, the amount of nutrients in the water, and the amount of algae growth resulting from those nutrients. Three parameters are the most important measures of eutrophication in most New York lakes: **total phosphorus**, **chlorophyll *a*** (measuring algal standing crop), and **Secchi disk transparency**. Because these parameters are closely linked to the growth of weeds and algae, they provide insight into “how the lake looks” and its suitability for recreation and aesthetics. Other CSLAP parameters help characterize water quality at the lake while balancing fiscal and logistic necessities. In addition, CSLAP also uses the responses on the **Field Observation Forms** to gauge volunteer perceptions of lake water quality. Most water quality “problems” arise from impairment of accepted or desired lake uses, or the perception that such uses are somehow degraded. As such, any water quality monitoring program should attempt to understand the link between perception and measurable quality.

The parameters analyzed in CSLAP provide valuable information for characterizing lakes. By adhering to a consistent sampling protocol provided in the CSLAP Sampling Protocol, volunteers collect and use data to assess both seasonal and yearly fluctuations in these parameters, and to evaluate the water quality in their lake. By comparing a specific year's data to historical water quality information, lake managers can pinpoint trends and determine if water quality is improving, degrading or remaining stable. Such a determination answers a first critical question posed in the lake management process.

Ranges for Parameters Assessing Trophic Status and Eagle Lake

The relationship between phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and Secchi disk transparency has been explored by many researchers, in hopes of assessing the trophic status (the degree of eutrophication) of lakes. Figure 3 shows ranges for phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and Secchi disk transparency (summer median) are representative for the major trophic classifications:

These classifications are valid for clear-water lakes only (waters with less than 30 platinum color units). Some humic or “tea color” lakes, for

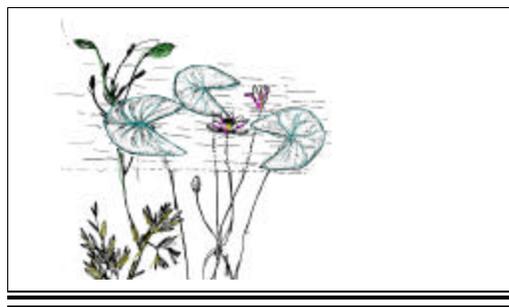
Figure 2. Trophic Status Indicators

Parameter	Eutrophic	Mesotrophic	Oligotrophic	Eagle Lake
Phosphorus (mg/l)	> 0.020	0.010 - 0.020	< 0.010	0.006
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (µg/l)	> 8	2- 8	< 2	1.2
Secchi Disk Clarity (m)	2	2- 5	> 5	6.6

example, naturally have dissolved organic material with greater than 30 color units. This will cause the water transparency to be unexpectedly poor relative to low phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* levels. Water transparency can also be surprisingly lower than expected in shallow lakes, due to influences from the bottom. Even shallow lakes with high water clarity, low nutrient concentrations, and little algal growth may also have significant weed growth due to shallow water conditions. While such a lake may be considered unproductive by most standards, that same lake may experience severe aesthetic problems and recreational impairment related to weeds, not trophic state. Generally, however, the trophic relationships described above can be used as an accurate “first” gauge of productivity and overall water quality.

Figure 3. CSLAP Parameters	
PARAMETER	SIGNIFICANCE
Water Temperature (°C)	Water temperature affects many lake activities, including the rate of biological growth and the amount of dissolved oxygen. It also affects the length of the recreational season
Secchi Disk Transparency (m)	Determined by measuring the depth at which a black and white disk disappears from sight, the Secchi disk transparency estimates the clarity of the water. In lakes with low color and rooted macrophyte ("weed") levels, it is related to algal productivity
Conductivity (µmho/cm)	Specific conductance measures the electrical current that passes through water, and is used to estimate the number of ions (charged particles). It is somewhat related to both the hardness and alkalinity (acid-buffering capacity) of the water, and may influence the degree to which nutrients remain in the water. Generally, lakes with conductivity less than 100 µmho/cm are considered softwater, while conductivity readings above 300 µmho/cm are found in hardwater lakes.
pH	pH is a measure of the (free) hydrogen ion concentration in solution. Most clearwater lakes must maintain a pH between 6 and 9 to support most types of plant and animal life. Low pH waters (<7) are acidic, while high pH waters (>7) are basic
Color (true) (platinum color units)	The color of dissolved materials in water usually consists of organic matter, such as decaying macrophytes or other vegetation. It is not necessarily indicative of water quality, but may significantly influence water transparency or algae growth. Color in excess of 30 ptu indicate sufficient quantities of dissolved organic matter to affect clarity by imparting a tannic color to the water.
Phosphorus (total, mg/l)	Phosphorus is one of the major nutrients needed for plant growth. It is often considered the "limiting" nutrient in NYS lakes, for biological productivity is often limited if phosphorus inputs are limited. Many lake management plans are centered around phosphorus controls.
Nitrogen (nitrate, mg/l)	Nitrogen is another nutrient necessary for plant growth, and can act as a limiting nutrient in some lakes, particularly in the spring and early summer. For much of the sampling season, many CSLAP lakes have very low or undetectable (<0.02 mg/l) levels.
Chlorophyll a (µg/l)	The measurement of chlorophyll a, the primary photosynthetic pigment found in green plants, provides an estimate of phytoplankton (algal) productivity, which may be strongly influenced by phosphorus

By each of the trophic standards described above, Eagle Lake would be considered to be a **oligotrophic**, or **highly unproductive** lake.



III. AQUATIC PLANTS

Macrophytes:

Aquatic plants should be recognized for their contributions to lake beauty as well as providing food and shelter for other life in the lake. Emergent and floating plants such as water lilies floating on the lake surface may provide aesthetic appeal with their colorful flowers; sedges and cattails help to prevent shoreline erosion, and may provide food and cover for birds. Submergent plants like pondweeds and leafy waterweed harbor insects, provide nurseries for amphibians and fish, and provide food for birds and other animals. Those who enjoy fishing at the lake appreciate a diverse plant population. Aquatic plants can be found throughout the *littoral zone*, the near-shore areas in which sufficient light reaches the lake bottom to promote photosynthesis. Plant growth in any particular part of the lake is a function of available light, nutrition and space, bottom substrate, wave action, and other factors. A large portion of aquatic vegetation consists of the microscopic algae referred to as phytoplankton; the other portion is the larger rooted plants called **macrophytes**.

Of particular concern to many lakefront residents and recreational users are the *non-indigenous macrophyte species* that can frequently dominate a native aquatic plant community and crowd out more beneficial species. The species may be introduced to a lake by waterfowl, but in most cases they are introduced by fragments or seedlings that remain on watercraft from already-infested lakes. Once introduced, these species have tenacious survival skills, crowding out, dominating and eventually aggressively overtaking the indigenous (native) plant communities. When this occurs, they interfere with recreational activities such as fishing, swimming or water-skiing. **These species need to be properly identified to be effectively managed.**

Non-native Invasive Macrophyte Species

Examples of **the common non-native invasive species found** in New York are:

- **Eurasian watermilfoil** (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- **Curly-leaf pondweed** (*Potamogeton crispus*)
- **Eurasian water chestnut** (*Trapa natans*)
- **Fanwort** (*Cabomba caroliniana*).

<p>If these plants are not present, efforts should be made to continue protecting the lake from the introduction of these species.</p>

Whether the role of the lake manager is to better understand the lake ecosystem or better manage the aquatic plant community, knowledge of plant distribution is paramount to the management process. There are many procedures available for assessing and monitoring aquatic vegetation. The CSLAP Sampling Protocol contains procedures for a “semi-quantitative” plant monitoring program. Volunteers collect plant specimens and provide field information and qualitative abundance estimates for an assessment of the macrophyte communities within critical areas of the lake. While these techniques are no substitute for professional plant surveys, they can help provide better information for lake managers. Lake associations planning to devote significant time and expenditures toward a plant management program are advised to pursue more extensive plant surveying activities.

Aquatic plant surveys have not yet been conducted through CSLAP at Eagle Lake, although monitoring through the Lake Classification and Inventory (LCI) survey in 1999 identified the following submergent aquatic plants:

Myriophyllum spicatum (Eurasian watermilfoil), *Eriocaulon septangulaire* (pipewort), *Pontederia cordata* (pickerelweed), *Nymphaea* spp. (white water lily), and *Brasenia schreberi* (water shield).

The Other Kind of Aquatic Vegetation

Microscopic algae referred to as phytoplankton make up much of aquatic vegetation found in lakes. For this reason, and since phytoplankton are the primary producers of food (through photosynthesis) in lakes, they are the most important component of the complex food web that governs ecological interactions in lakes.

In a lake, phytoplankton communities are usually very diverse, and are comprised of hundreds of species having different requirements for nutrients, temperature and light. In many lakes, including those of New York, diatom populations are greatest in the spring, due to a competitive advantage in cooler water and relatively high levels of silica. In most lakes, however, diatom densities rarely reach nuisance portions in the spring. By the summer, green algae take advantage of warmer temperatures and greater amounts of nutrients (particularly nitrogen) in the warm water and often increase in density. These algae often grow in higher densities than do diatoms or most other species, although they are often not the types of algae most frequently implicated in noxious algae blooms. Later in the summer and in

the early fall, blue green algae, which possess the ability to utilize atmospheric nitrogen to provide this required nutrient, increase in response to higher phosphorus concentrations. This often happens right before turnover, or destratification in the fall. These algae are most often associated with taste and odor problems, bloom conditions, and the “spilled paint” slick that prompts the most complaints about algae. Each lake possesses a unique blend of algal communities, often varying in population size from year to year, and with differing species proportional in the entire population. The most common types range from the mentioned diatoms, green, and blue-green algae, to golden-brown algae to dinoflagellates and many others, dominating each lake community.

So how can this be evaluated through CSLAP? CSLAP does assess algal biomass through the chlorophyll *a* measurement. While algal differentiation is important, many CSLAP lake associations are primarily interested in “how much?”, not “what kind?”, and this is assessed through the chlorophyll *a* measurement. Phytoplankton communities have not been regularly identified and monitored through CSLAP, in part due to the cost and difficulty in analyzing samples, and in part due to the difficulty in using a one-time sample to assess long-term variability in lake conditions. A phytoplankton analysis may reflect a temporary, highly unstable and dynamic water quality condition.

In previous CSLAP sampling seasons, nearly all lakes were sampled once for phytoplankton identification, and since then some lakes have been sampled on one or more occasions. For these lakes, a summary of the most abundant phytoplankton species is included below. Algal species frequently associated with taste and odor problems are specifically noted in this table, although it should be mentioned that these samples, like all other water samples collected through CSLAP, come from near the center of the lake, a location not usually near water intakes or swimming beaches. Since algal communities can also be spatially quite variable, even a preponderance of taste and odor-causing species in the water samples might not necessarily translate to potable water intake or aesthetic impairments, although the threat of such an impairment might be duly noted in the “Considerations” section below.

Phytoplankton surveys have not been conducted through CSLAP at Eagle Lake

IV. EAGLE LAKE CSLAP WATER QUALITY DATA

CSLAP is intended to provide the strong data base which will help lake associations understand lake conditions and foster sound lake protection and pollution prevention decisions. This individual lake summary for 2000 contains two forms of information. The **raw data** and **graphs** present a snapshot or glimpse of water quality conditions at each lake. They are based on (at most) eight sampling events during the summer. As lakes are sampled through CSLAP for a number of years, the database for each lake will expand, and assessments of lake conditions and water quality data become more accurate. For this reason, lakes new to CSLAP for only one year will not have information about annual trends.

Raw Data

Two “**data sets**” are provided below. The data presented in Table 1 include an annual summary of the minimum, maximum, and average for each of the CSLAP sampling parameters, including data from other sources for which sufficient quality assurance/quality control documentation is available for assessing the validity of the results. This data may be useful for comparing a certain data point perhaps for the current sampling year with historical data information. Table 2 includes more detailed summaries of the 2000 and historical data sets, including some evaluation of water quality trends, comparison against existing water quality standards, and whether 2000 represented a typical year.

Graphs

The second form of data analysis for your lake is presented in the form of **graphs**. These graphs are based on the raw data sets to represent a snapshot of water quality conditions at your lake. The more sampling that has been done on a particular lake, the more information that can be presented on the graph, and the more information you have to identify annual trends for your lake. For example, a lake that has been doing CSLAP monitoring consistently for five years will have a graph depicting five years worth of data, whereas a lake that has been doing CSLAP sampling for only one year may only have one. Therefore, it is important to consider the number of sampling years of information in addition to where the data points fall on a graph while trying to draw conclusions about annual trends. There are certain factors not accounted for in this report that lake managers should consider:

- **Local weather conditions** (high or low temperatures, rainfall, droughts or hurricanes). Due to delays in receiving meteorological data from NOAA stations within NYS, weather data are not included in these reports. It is certain that some of the variability reported below can be attributed more to weather patterns than to a “real” water trend or change. However, it is presumed that much of the sampling “noise” associated with weather is dampened over multiple years of data collection, and thus should not significantly influence the limited trend analyses provided for CSLAP lakes with longer and larger databases.
- **Sampling season and parameter limitations**. Because sampling is generally confined to June-September, this report does not look at CSLAP parameters during the winter and other seasons. Winter conditions can impact the usability and water quality of a lake conditions. In addition, there are other sampling parameters (fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, etc.) that may be responsible for chemical and biological processes and changes in physical measurements (such as water clarity) and the perceived conditions in the lake. **The CSLAP 2000 report attempts to standardize some comparisons by limiting the evaluation to common sampling periods (July through August).**

TABLE 1: CSLAP Data Summary for Eagle Lake

Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	5.00	6.51	7.95	8	CSLAP Zsd
1999	6.40	7.90	9.50	3	LCI Zsd
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	0.004	0.007	0.010	5	CSLAP Tot.P
1999	0.006	0.007	0.008	2	LCI Tot.P
1999	0.008	0.010	0.011	2	LCI Hypo Tot.P
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	0.01	0.01	0.01	7	CSLAP NO3
1999	0.01	0.01	0.01	2	LCI NO3
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	3	5	8	7	CSLAP TColor
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	6.75	7.46	8.15	7	CSLAP pH
1999	7.30	7.50	7.70	2	LCI pH
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	129	136	139	7	CSLAP Cond25
1999	140	140	140	2	LCI Cond25
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	0.42	2.13	8.20	7	CSLAP Chl.a
1999	1.07	1.43	2.29	4	LCI Chl.a
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	2	2.0	2	8	QA
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	1	2.6	3	8	QB
Year	Min	Avg	Max	N	Parameter
2000	3	3.0	3	8	QC

DATA SOURCE KEY

CSLAP	New York Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program
LCI	the NYSDEC Lake Classification and Inventory Survey conducted during the 1980s and again beginning in 1996 on select sets of lakes, typically 1 to 4x per year
DEC	other water quality data collected by the NYSDEC Divisions of Water and Fish and Wildlife, typically 1 to 2x in any give year
ALSC	the NYSDEC (and other partners) Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation study of more than 1500 Adirondack and Catskill lakes during the mid 1980s, typically 1 to 2x
ELS	USEPA's Eastern Lakes Survey, conducted in the fall of 1982, 1x
NES	USEPA's National Eutrophication Survey, conducted in 1972, 2 to 10x
EMAP	USEPA and US Dept. of Interior's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program conducted from 1990 to present, 1 to 2x in four year cycles
Additional data source codes are provided in the individual lake reports	

CSLAP DATA KEY:

The following key defines column headings and parameter results for each sampling season:

L Name	Lake name
Date	Date of sampling
Zbot	Depth of the lake at the sampling site, meters
Zsd	Secchi disk transparency, meters
Zsp	Depth of the sample, meters
TAir	Temp of Air, °C
TH20	Temp of Water Sample, °C
TotP	Total Phosphorus, in mg/l
NO3	Nitrate nitrogen as N, in mg/l
Tcolor	True color, as platinum color units (negative logarithm of hydrogen ion concentration), standard pH
pH	
Cond25	Specific conductance corrected to 25°C, in µmho/cm
Chl.a	Chlorophyll a, in µg/l
QA	Survey question re: physical condition of lake: (1) crystal clear, (2) not quite crystal clear, (3) definite algae greenness, (4) high algae levels, and (5) severely high algae levels
QB	Survey question re: aquatic plant populations of lake: (1) none visible, (2) visible underwater, (3) visible at lake surface, (4) dense growth at lake surface, (5) dense growth completely covering the nearshore lake surface
QC	Survey question re: recreational suitability of lake: (1) couldn't be nicer, (2) very minor aesthetic problems but excellent for overall use, (3) slightly impaired, (4) substantially impaired, although lake can be used, (5) recreation impossible
QD	Survey question re: factors affecting answer QC: (1) poor water clarity; (2) excessive weeds; (3) too much algae/odor; (4) lake looks bad; (5) poor weather; (6) other

- **Statistical analyses.** True assessments of water quality trends and comparison to other lakes involve rigid statistical analyses. Such analyses are generally beyond the scope of this program, in part due to limitations on the time available to summarize data from nearly 100 lakes in the five months from data receipt to next sampling season. This may be due in part to the inevitable inter-lake inconsistencies in sampling dates from year to year, and in part to the limited scope of monitoring. Where appropriate, some statistical summaries, utilizing both parametric and non-parametric statistics, have been provided within the report (primarily in Table 2).
- **Mean versus Median-** Much of the water quality summary data presented in this report is reported as the **mean**, or the average of all of the readings in the period in question (summer, annual, year to year). However, while mean remains one of the most useful, and often most powerful, ways to estimate the most typical reading for many of the measured water quality indicators, it is a less useful and perhaps misleading estimate when the data are not “normally” distributed (most common readings in the middle of the range of all readings, with readings less common toward the end of the range). In particular, comparisons of one lake to another, such as comparisons within a particular basin, can be greatly affected by the spread of the data across the range of all readings. For example, the average phosphorus level of nine lakes with very low readings (say 10 µg/l) and one lake with very high readings (say 110 µg/l) could be much higher (in this case, 20 µg/l) than in the “typical lake” in this set of lakes (much closer to 10 µg/l). In this case, **median**, or the middle reading in the range, is probably the most accurate representation of “typical”.

This report will include the use of both mean and median to evaluate “central tendency”, or the most typical reading, for the indicator in question. In most cases, “mean” is used most often to estimate central tendency. However, where noted, “median” may also be used.

TABLE 2- Present Year and Historical Data Summaries for Eagle Lake

Eutrophication Indicators

Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Zsd	2000	5.00	6.51	7.95
(meters)	All Years	5.00	6.51	7.95
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Phosphorus	2000	0.004	0.007	0.010
(mg/l)	All Years	0.004	0.007	0.010
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Chl.a	2000	0.42	2.13	8.20
(µg/l)	All Years	0.42	2.13	8.20

Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Clarity the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Trophic Category	Zsd Changing?	% Samples Violating DOH Beach Std?+
Zsd	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	Oligotrophic	No	0
(meters)	All Years			Oligotrophic		0
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 TP the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Trophic Category	TP Changing?	% Samples Exceeding TP Guidance Value+
Phosphorus	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	Oligotrophic	No	0
(mg/l)	All Years			Oligotrophic		0
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Algae the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Trophic Category	Chl.a Changing?	
Chl.a	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	Mesotrophic	No	
(µg/l)	All Years			Mesotrophic		

+ - Minimum allowable water clarity for siting a new NYS swimming beach = 1.2 meters
- NYS Total Phosphorus Guidance Value for Class B and Higher Lakes = 0.020 mg/l

-Water quality trends cannot be evaluated with only one year of CSLAP data.

TABLE 2- Present Year and Historical Data Summaries for Eagle Lake (cont)*Other Water Quality Indicators*

Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Nitrate	2000	0.01	0.01	0.01
(mg/l)	All Years	0.01	0.01	0.01
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
True Color	2000	3	5	8
(ptu)	All Years	3	5	8
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
pH	2000	6.75	7.46	8.15
(std units)	All Years	6.75	7.46	8.15
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Conductivity	2000	129	136	139
(µmho/cm)	All Years	129	136	139

Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Nitrate the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Nitrate High?	Nitrate Changing?	% Samples Exceeding NO3 Standard	
Nitrate	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	No	No	0	
(mg/l)	All Years			No		0	
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Color the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Colored Lake?	Color Changing?		
True Color	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	No	No		
(ptu)	All Years			No			
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 pH the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Acceptable Range?	pH Changing?	% Samples > Upper pH Standard+	% Samples < Lower pH Standard+
pH	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	Yes	No	0	0
(std units)	All Years			Yes		14	0
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Conductivity Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Relative Hardness	Conduct. Changing?		
Conductivity	2000	Both Highest and Lowest at Times	Yes	Intermediate	No		
(µmho/cm)	All Years						

+ - NYS Nitrate standard = 10 mg/l

- NYS pH standard- not to exceed 8.5 or fall below 6.5

*- Water quality trends cannot be evaluated with only one year of CSLAP data

TABLE 2- Present Year and Historical Data Summaries for Eagle Lake

Lake Perception Indicators (1= most favorable, 5= least favorable)

Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
QA	2000	2	2.0	2
(Clarity)	All Years	2	2.0	2
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
QB	2000	1	2.6	3
(Plants)	All Years	1	2.6	3
Parameter	Year	Minimum	Average	Maximum
QC	2000	3	3.0	3
(Recreation)	All Years	3	3.0	3

Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Clarity the Highest or Lowest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Perceived Clarity Changed?
QA	2000	Highest and Lowest	Yes	No
(Clarity)	All Years			
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Weed Growth the Heaviest on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Weeds Changed?
QB	2000	Heaviest and Lightest	Yes	No
(Plants)	All Years			
Parameter	Year	Was 2000 Recreation the Best or Worst on Record?	Was 2000 a Typical Year?	Recreation Changed?
QC	2000	Both Best and Worst at Times	Yes	No
(Recreation)	All Years			

***- Lake perception trends cannot be evaluated with only one year of CSLAP data.**

How Do the 2000 Seasonal Data Compare to Historical Seasonal Data?

Seasonal Comparison of Eutrophication and Lake Perception Indicators–2000 Sampling Season and in the Typical Sampling Season at Eagle Lake

Figures 4 and 5 compare data for the measured eutrophication parameters for Eagle Lake in 2000 and since CSLAP sampling began at Eagle Lake. Figures 6 and 7 compare volunteer perception responses over the same time periods.

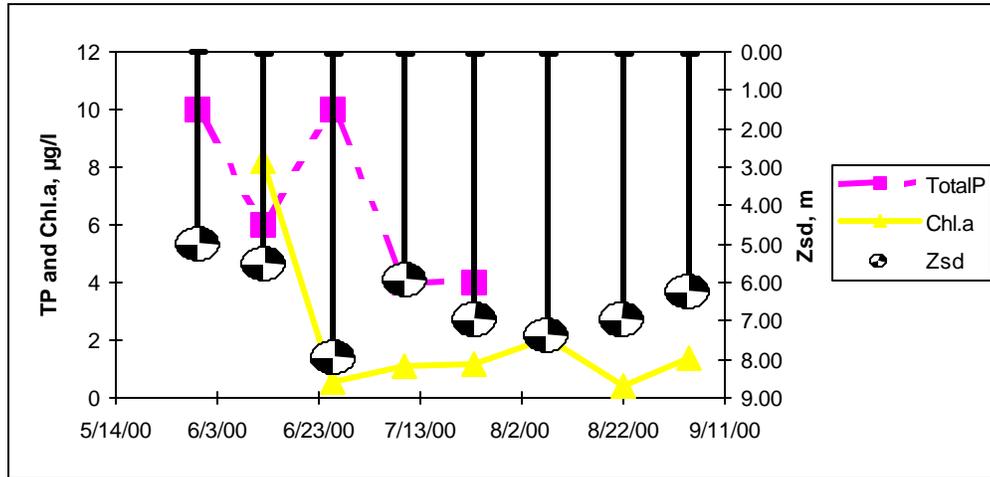


Figure 4. 2000 Eutrophication Data for Eagle Lake

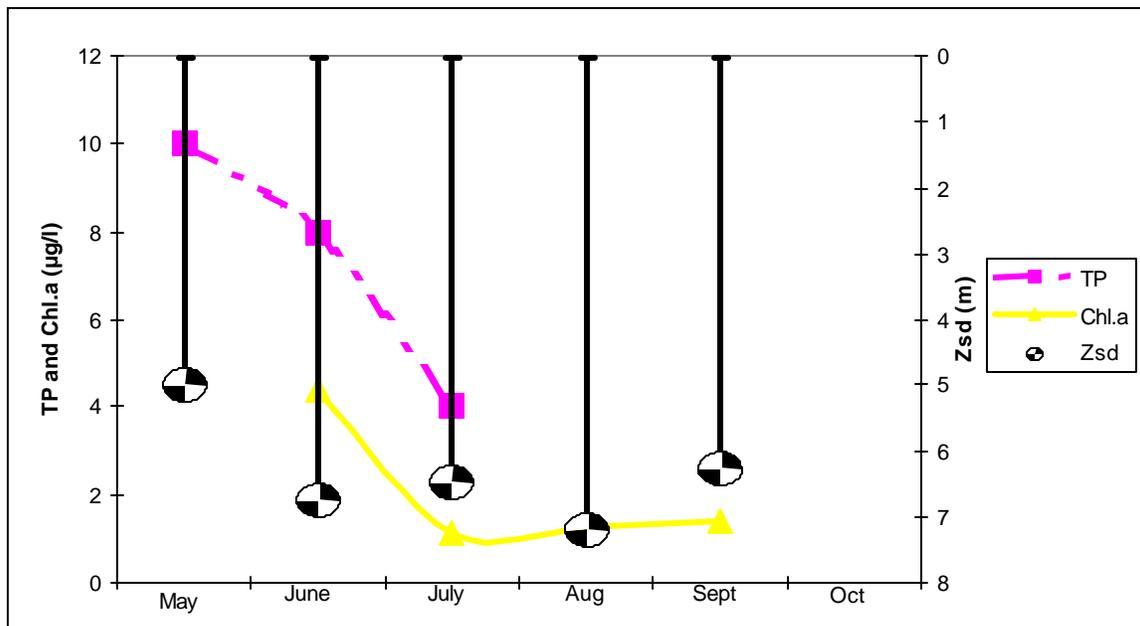


Figure 5- Eutrophication Data in a Typical (Monthly Mean) Year for Eagle Lake

Figures 4 and 5 look nearly identical since they are derived from the same limited (2000 only) dataset

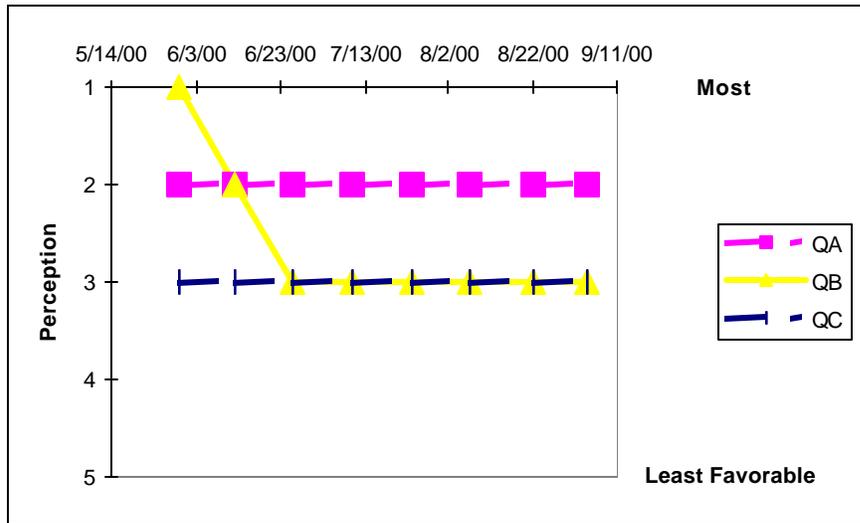


Figure 6. 2000 Lake Perception Data for Eagle Lake

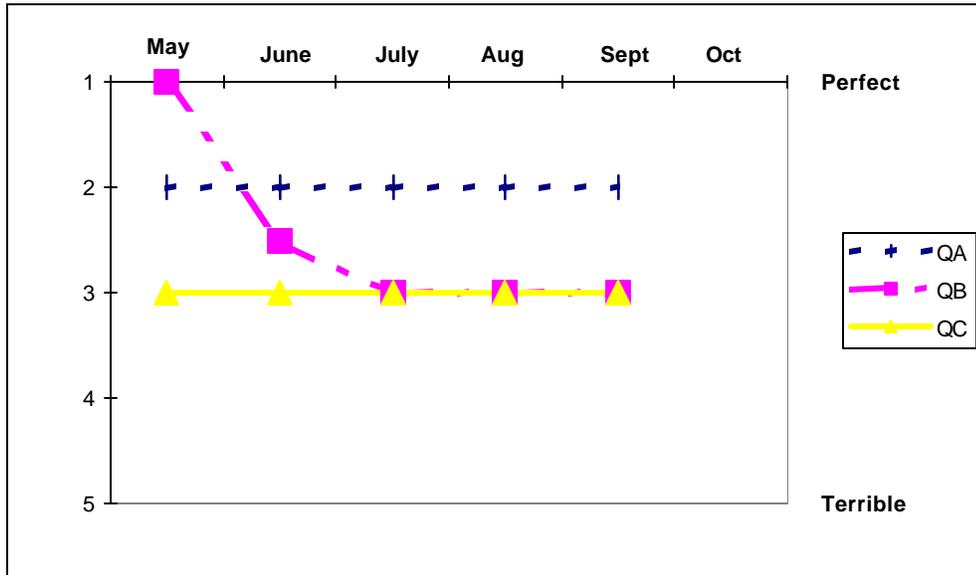


Figure 7- Lake Perception Data in a Typical (Monthly Mean) Year for Eagle Lake

(QA = clarity, ranging from (1) crystal clear to (3) definite algae greenness to (5) severely high algae levels
 QB = weeds, ranging from (1) not visible to (3) growing to the surface to (5) dense growth covers lake;
 QC = recreation, ranging from (1) could not be nicer to (3) slightly impaired to (5) lake not usable)

Figures 6 and 7 look nearly identical since they are derived from the same limited (2000 only) dataset

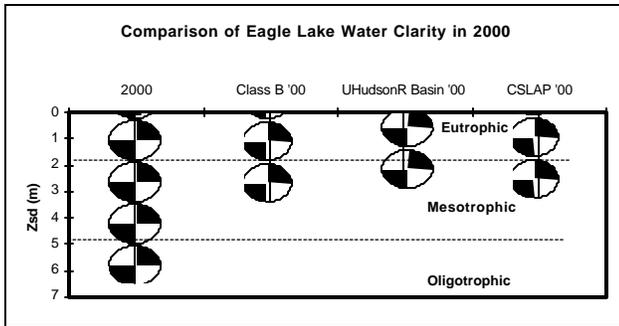


Figure 8. Comparison of 2000 Secchi Disk Transparency to Lakes With the Same Water Quality Classification, Neighboring Lakes, and Other CSLAP Lakes in 2000

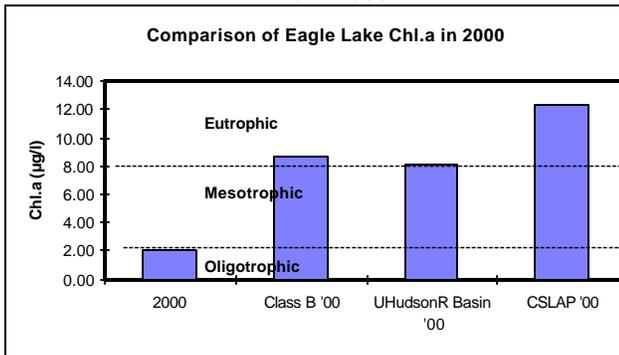


Figure 9. Comparison of 2000 Chlorophyll a to Lakes with the Same Water Quality Classification, Neighboring Lakes, and Other CSLAP Lakes in 2000

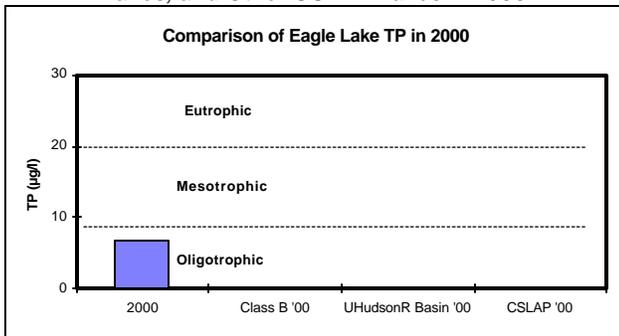


Figure 10. Comparison of 2000 Total Phosphorus to Lakes With the Same Water Quality Classification, Neighboring Lakes, and Other CSLAP Lakes in 2000

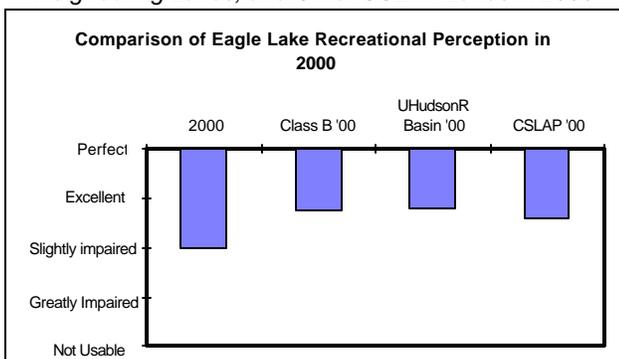


Figure 11. Comparison of 2000 Recreational Perception

How does Eagle Lake compare to other lakes?

Annual Comparison of Median Readings for Eutrophication Parameters and Recreational Assessment For Eagle Lake in 2000, Neighboring Lakes, Lakes with the Same Lake Classification, and Other CSLAP Lakes

The graphs to the left illustrate comparisons of each eutrophication parameter and recreational perception at Eagle Lake-in 2000, other lakes in the same drainage basin, lakes with the same water quality classification (each classification is summarized in Appendix B), and all of CSLAP. Please keep in mind that differences in watershed types, activities, lake history and other factors may result in differing water quality conditions at your lake relative to other nearby lakes. In addition, the limited data base for some regions of the state preclude a comprehensive comparison to neighboring lakes.

Based on these graphs, the following conclusions can be made about Eagle Lake in 2000:

- Using water clarity as an indicator, Eagle Lake was less productive than other lakes with the same water quality classification (Class B), and other Upper Hudson River drainage basin and CSLAP lakes.
- Using chlorophyll *a* as an indicator, Eagle Lake was less productive than other Class B, Upper Hudson River drainage basin and other CSLAP lakes.
- Using preliminary total phosphorus concentrations as an indicator, Eagle Lake was less productive than other Upper Hudson River basin, Class B, and other CSLAP lakes.
- Using QC on the field observations form as an indicator, Eagle Lake was less suitable for recreation as other Class B, other Upper Hudson River drainage basin and other CSLAP lakes.

V: CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAKE MANAGEMENT

CSLAP is intended for a variety of uses, such as collecting needed information for comprehensive lake management, although it is not capable of collecting all the needed information. To this end, this section includes a ***broad summary of the major lake problems and “considerations” for lake management.*** These include only those lake problems which may have been defined by CSLAP sampling, such as physical condition (algae and water clarity), aquatic plant coverage (type and extent of weed populations), and recreational suitability of the lake, as related to contact recreation. These broad categories may not encompass the most pressing issue at a particular time at any given CSLAP lake; for example, local concerns about filamentous algae or concerns about other parameters not analyzed in the CSLAP sampling. While there is some opportunity for CLSAP trained volunteers to report and assess some site specific conditions or concerns on the CSLAP Field Observations Form, such as algae blooms or shoreline vegetation, this section is limited to the confines of this program. The categories represent the most common, broadest issues within the lake management as reported through CSLAP.

Each summarized management strategy is more extensively outlined in Diet for a Small Lake, and this joint NYSDEC-NYSFLA publication should be consulted for more details and for a broader context of in-lake or watershed management techniques. These “considerations” should not be construed as “recommendations”, since there is insufficient information available through CSLAP to assess if or how a lake should be managed. Issues associated with local environmental sensitivity, permits, and broad community management objectives also cannot be addressed here. Rather, the following section should be considered as “tips” or a compilation of suggestions for a lake association to manage problems defined by CSLAP water quality data or articulated by perception data. When appropriate, lake-specific management information, and other lake-specific or local “data” (such as the presence of a controllable outlet structure) is reported in ***bold*** in this “considerations” section.

The primary focus of CSLAP monitoring is to evaluate lake condition and impacts associated with lake eutrophication. Since lake eutrophication is often manifested in excessive plant growth, whether algae or aquatic macrophytes (weeds), it is likely that lake management activities, whether promulgated to reduce algae or weed growth, or to maintain water clarity and the existing makeup and density of aquatic plants in the lake, will need to address watershed inputs of nutrients and sediment to the lake, since both can contribute to either algal blooms or excessive weed growth. A core group of nutrient and sediment control activities will likely serve as the foundation for most comprehensive lake management plans and activities, and can be summarized below:

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CSLAP LAKES

Nutrient controls can take several forms, depending on the original source of the nutrients:

- Septic systems can be regularly pumped or upgraded to reduce the stress on the leach fields which can be replaced with new soil or moving the discharge from the septic tank to a new field). Pumpout programs are usually quite inexpensive, particularly when lakefront residents negotiate a bulk rate discount with local pumping companies. Upgrading systems can be expensive, but may be necessary to handle the increased loading from camp expansion or conversion to year-round residency. Replacing leach fields alone can be expensive and limited by local soil or slope conditions, but may be the only way to reduce actual nutrient loading from septic systems to the lake. It should be noted that upgrading or replacing the leach field may do little to change any bacterial loading to the lake, since bacteria are controlled primarily within the septic tank, not the leach field.
- Stormwater runoff control plans include street cleaning, artificial marshes, sedimentation basins, runoff conveyance systems, and other strategies aimed at minimizing or intercepting pollutant discharge from impervious surfaces. The NYSDEC has developed a guide called Reducing the Impacts of Stormwater Runoff to provide more detailed information about developing a stormwater management plan. This is a strategy that cannot generally be tackled by an individual homeowner, but rather requires the effort and cooperation of lake residents and municipal officials.
- There are numerous agriculture management practices such as fertilizer controls, soil erosion practices, and control of animal wastes, which either reduce nutrient export or retain particles lost from agricultural fields. These practices are frequently employed in cooperation with county Soil and Water Conservation District offices, and are described in greater detail in the NYSDEC's Controlling Agricultural Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in New York State. Like stormwater controls, these require the cooperation of many watershed partners, including farmers.
- Streambank erosion can be caused by increased flow due to poorly managed urban areas, agricultural fields, construction sites, and deforested areas, or it may simply come from repetitive flow over disturbed streambanks. Control strategies may involve streambank stabilization, detention basins, revegetation, and water diversion.

Land use restrictions development and zoning tools such as floodplain management, master planning to allow for development clusters in more tolerant areas in the watershed and protection of more sensitive areas; deed or contracts which limit access to the lake, and cutting restrictions can be used to reduce pollutant loading to lakes. This approach varies greatly from one community to the next and frequently involves balancing lake use protection with land use restrictions. State law gives great latitude to local government in developing land use plans.

Lawn fertilizers frequently contain phosphorus, even though nitrogen is more likely to be the limiting nutrient for grasses and other terrestrial plants. By using lawn fertilizers with little or no phosphorus, eliminating lawn fertilizers or using lake water as a "fertilizer" at shoreline properties, fewer nutrients may enter the lake. Retaining the original flora as much

as possible, or planting a buffer strip (trees, bushes, shrubs) along the shoreline, can reduce the nutrient load leaving a residential lawn.

Waterfowl introduce nutrients, plant fragments, and bacteria to the lake water through their feces. Feeding the waterfowl encourages congregation which in turn concentrates and increases this nutrient source, and will increase the likelihood that plant fragments, particularly from Eurasian watermilfoil and other plants that easily fragment and reproduce through small fragments, can be introduced to a previously uncolonized lake.

Although not really a “watershed control strategy”, establishing **no-wake zones** can reduce shoreline erosion and local turbidity. Wave action, which can disturb flocculent bottom sediments and unconsolidated shoreline terrain is ultimately reduced, minimizing the spread of fertile soils to susceptible portions of the lake.

Do not discard or introduce plants from one water source to another, or deliberately introduce a "new" species from catalogue or vendor. For example, do not empty bilge or bait bucket water from another lake upon arrival at another lake, for this may contain traces of exotic plants or animals. Do not empty aquaria wastewater or plants to the lake.

Boat propellers are a major mode of transport to uncolonized lakes. Propellers, hitches, and trailers frequently get entangled by weeds and weed fragments. Boats not cleaned of fragments after leaving a colonized lake may introduce plant fragments to another location. New introductions of plants are often found near public access sites.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR EAGLE LAKE

Management Focus: Water Clarity/Algae/Physical Condition/Recreational Condition

Issue	Through	By?
Maintain water clarity	Maintaining or reducing algae levels	Maintaining or reducing nutrient Inputs to the lake

User perception and water quality data indicate a favorable physical condition and water clarity of the lake. This places the focus of water clarity management on maintaining present conditions, an enviable position for many other lake associations. Although some increase in nutrient loading is inevitable, the lake association should devote efforts to minimize the input of nutrients to the lake, or change activities that otherwise influence water clarity.

Management Focus: The Impact of Weeds on Recreational Condition

Issue	Effect on Lake Use
Low weed growth	No use impairments associated with weed growth

Discussion:

Weed growth in this lake is not dense enough to have an impact on recreational or aesthetic quality of the lake. For many lake associations this is the ideal situation, even though an ideal condition for swimmers, boaters and lakefront residents may not be ideal for a significant sports fishery. For lakes in this condition, lake management is largely a task of maintaining course, of keeping siltation from the watershed at a very low level, and of keeping nuisance plants under control or out of the lake. The DEC publication, Common Nuisance Aquatic Plants in New York State, contains information about nuisance plants.

-Naturally occurring biological controls - may include native species of *aquatic weevils and moths* which eat aquatic plants. These organisms feed on Eurasian watermilfoil, and control nuisance plants in some Finger Lakes and throughout the Northeast. However, they also inhabit other lakes with varied or undocumented effectiveness for the long term. Because these organisms live in the canopy of weed beds and feed primarily on the top of the plants, harvesting may have severe negative impact on the population. Research is on-going about their natural occurrence, and as to their effectiveness both as a natural or deliberately-introduced control mechanism for Eurasian watermilfoil. **It is not known by the report authors if both of these herbivorous insects are indigenous to Eagle Lake.**

-Weed watcher (“...look out for this plant..”) signs have been successful in reducing the spread of nuisance aquatic plants. They are usually placed near high traffic areas, such as boat launch sites, marinas, and inlets and outlets.

-If you have a small amount of nuisance plant growth you may want to consider the following (general permits may be required to perform these activities within the Adirondack Park) :

-Hand harvesting is a very labor-intensive means for controlling weed populations. If only a very small number of nuisance plant stems exist, this may be the best means of control, removing the roots and stems of the entire plant, and disposing properly before they propagate into larger, uncontrollable beds that become the obnoxious neighbors of beneficial native plants.

-Benthic barriers are small opaque mats (usually constructed from plastic, burlap, or other materials) anchored down on top of plants to prevent sunlight from reaching the plants, thus eventually killing the plants. These are limited to only small areas, and the mats must be anchored and perforated to prevent gas bubbles from dislodging the mats.

Appendix A. Raw Data for Eagle Lake

LNum	PName	Date	Zbot	Zsd	Zsamp	Tot.P	NO3	TColor	pH	Cond25	Chl.a	TAir	TH20	QA	QB	QC	QD
169	Eagle L	5/30/00	11.8	5.00	1.5	0.010						20	15	2	1	3	
169	Eagle L	6/12/00	12.4	5.55	1.5	0.006	0.01	7	7.57	129	8.20	17	16	2	2	3	25
169	Eagle L	6/26/00	11.5	7.95	1.5	0.010	0.01	8	7.94	137	0.56	30	24	2	3	3	2
169	Eagle L	7/10/00	11.6	5.95	1.5	0.004	0.01	3	7.49	139	1.08	22	22	2	3	3	56
169	Eagle L	7/24/00	11.5	7.00	1.5	0.004	0.01	7	7.47	136	1.15	25	22	2	3	3	2
169	Eagle L	8/7/00	11.5	7.40	1.5		0.01	4	6.82	137	2.08	21	23	2	3	3	125
169	Eagle L	8/22/00	11.7	7.00	1.5		0.01	3	8.15	134	0.42	26	24	2	3	3	2
169	Eagle L	9/4/00	11.5	6.25	1.5		0.01	6	6.75	138	1.41	11	21	2	3	3	25

Appendix B. New York State Water Clarity Classifications

- Class N: Enjoyment of water in its natural condition and where compatible, as source of water for drinking or culinary purposes, bathing, fishing and fish propagation, recreation and any other usages except for the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes or any sewage or waste effluent not having filtration resulting from at least 200 feet of lateral travel through unconsolidated earth. These waters should contain no deleterious substances, hydrocarbons or substances that would contribute to eutrophication, nor shall they receive surface runoff containing any such substance.
- Class AA_{special}: Source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival, and shall contain no floating solids, settleable solids, oils, sludge deposits, toxic wastes, deleterious substances, colored or other wastes or heated liquids attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes. There shall be no discharge or disposal of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes into these waters. These waters shall contain no phosphorus and nitrogen in amounts that will result in growths of algae, weeds and slimes that will impair the waters for their best usages.
- Class A_{special}: Source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. These international boundary waters, if subjected to approved treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection, with additional treatment if necessary to remove naturally present impurities, will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes
- Class AA: Source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. These waters, if subjected to approved disinfection treatment, with additional treatment if necessary to remove naturally present impurities, will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes
- Class A: Source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. These waters, if subjected to approved treatment equal to coagulation,

sedimentation, filtration and disinfection, with additional treatment if necessary to remove naturally present impurities, will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes

Class B Suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival

Class C: Suitable for fishing, and fish propagation and survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Class D: Suitable for fishing. Due to such natural conditions as intermittency of flow, water conditions not conducive to propagation of game fishery, or stream bed conditions, the waters will not support fish propagation. These waters shall be suitable for fish survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Class (T): Designated for trout survival, defined by the Environmental Conservation Law Article 11 (NYS, 1984b) as brook trout, brown trout, red throat trout, rainbow trout, and splake

APPENDIX C: BACKGROUND INFO FOR EAGLE LAKE

CSLAP Number	169
Lake Name	Eagle L
First CSLAP Year	2000
Sampled in 1999?	yes
Latitude	435218
Longitude	733702
Elevation (m)	288
Area (ha)	170.9
Volume Code	5
Volume Code Name	Upper Hudson River
Pond Number	438
Qualifier	none
Water Quality Classification	B
County	Essex
Town	Ticonderoga
Watershed Area (ha)	not yet determined
Retention Time (years)	not yet determined
Mean Depth (m)	not yet determined
Runoff (m/yr)	not yet determined
Watershed Number	11
Watershed Name	Upper Hudson River
NOAA Section	3
Closest NOAA Station	North Creek
Closest USGS Gaging Station-Number	not yet determined
Closest USGS Gaging Station-Name	not yet determined
CSLAP Lakes in Watershed	Adirondack L, Babcock L, Ballston L, Brant L, Cossayuna L, Efner L, Friends L, Garnet L, Goodnow F, Hedges L, Hunt L, Kellum L, L Lauderdale, L Luzerne, Loon L-W, Moreau L, Piseco L, Sacandaga L, Saratoga L, Schroon L, Summit L-W, Windover L (Ross L)