

2022 LOBSTER LAKE A.I.S. RECAP

Below is a recap of this year's Lobster Lake A.I.S. status:

EWM (Eurasian Watermifloil) - This summer members of our Association's A.I.S. Committee went out between mid-August and mid-September to inspect for the possible presence of EWM in our lake. The lake is divided into twelve (12) individual, specific inspection areas, each of which parallels approximately one and one-half (1 1/2) miles of shoreline. The inspectors are to advise the committee chairman whether they locate any EWM or not. They report by e-mail or phone, either is acceptable. Again this year we were pleased that no inspector found any EWM.

CLP (Curley-leaf Pondweed) - This year the A.I.S. committee members did not have to inspect for CLP. Knowing that our lake has CLP and has had it for a number of years based on past years' inspections, it was decided by the Lobster Lakes Association's Board of Directors that in 2022 CLP control action should be taken. Last year the Association, under requirements of the DNR (Dept. of Natural Resources), contracted with a DNR approved aquatic vegetation survey firm to inspect the entire lake for the presence of this invasive plant. The firm located CLP in twenty-four (24) different locations each having what was considered to be a fairly significant number of plants. The locations involved a total of 16.51 acres. Having a professional survey done allowed the Association to apply for a DNR permit as is necessary for herbicide applications. The DNR allowed us to work with last year's survey results to obtain a control permit for this year. As we were using the professionally done survey it was not believed it necessary for our inspectors to make inspections this year.

On May 26th the DNR approved herbicide application firm which we had contracted with for a chemical application did apply a herbicide to the five (5) locations having the most plants. These locations comprised a total of 6.37 acres. Subsequent to the chemical application, the firm returned and conducted a follow-up inspection to verify the results of their work. They reported the chemical appeared to have had the desired effect considering the minimal amount of time that had elapsed between when the chemical had been applied and when this follow-up inspection was conducted. Additional time should show even more positive results.

The Association has been advised that complete eradication of CLP is not possible. That for maximum control three (3) applications (one each year for 3 years) will be required. The Board of Directors will consider what future actions to take.

ZEBRA MUSSELS - Every lakeshore owner knows that these invasives exist in Lobster Lake and have since first being discovered here in 2016. Research work continues but currently there still is no method available to effectively eradicate the mussels on a large scale (such for an entire lake) at anywhere near an economical expense. So we are just going to have to tolerate the rascals for who knows how long.

SSW (Starry Stonewart) - None of this macro algae (looking like a plant) was reported to exist in our lake.

FINAL WORD - The A.I.S. Committee is still in need of two (2) volunteer inspectors to replace a couple of long-time inspectors that have retired after donating many years of service. The task requires approximately 20-30 minutes of training, about an hour and one-half (1 ½) of inspection time twice per summer, just three (3) hours total out of an entire summer. With the minimal time commitment seasonal property owners as well as year-round residents can help with the project. You need not be able identify every possible vegetation pulled up, you simply need to be able to recognize the few invasives of concern. The A.I.S. Committee has been in existence since 2007 and it functions entirely on volunteers. Without sufficient volunteers programs cannot continue. PLEASE consider volunteering to cover one of the open areas. Contact Hardy Huettl via e-mail at hbyalex@gctel.net or by phone at (320) 834-3287.

SUBMITTED BY: Hardy Huettl, Chairman
A.I.S. Committee