

Section 13

About Fence Lake

Mashkanaakobijigani-zaaga'igan (a kind of brush or wooden fence constructed to enclose deer driven into it).

—Our Earth¹

Introduction

The *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan* includes sections for each of the ten lakes in the watershed. The lakes are in the largest watershed in Lac du Flambeau, within the Reservation's boundaries, associated with high use landings, and have complete data sets required for a lake management plan. The purpose of the plan is to establish the current health of the watershed and lakes and suggest how to maintain or improve their health in the future.

This section includes introductory information about Fence Lake, a summary of how uses of the lake have changed over time, data from the community survey, and an assessment of the lake's health based on data for the lake's biology, chemistry, nutrients, habitat, bacteria, lake levels, and aesthetics. This section also includes an action plan to improve or maintain the overall health of Fence Lake.

As noted, Fence Lake is in the Bear River Watershed (Subwatershed HUC12-070500020201) south east of the town center of Lac du Flambeau and east of Big Crawling Stone Lake (Figure 13-1).

The lake is approximately 3555 acres and has a maximum depth of 86 feet (Table 13-1). Fence Lake is classified as a drainage lake, meaning that it is fed by streams, groundwater, precipitation, and run off

Fence Lake is named for the fences that Indian hunters built out of brush to "corral" deer as they migrated south for the winter. They would put out salt to attract the deer as people do today.

—Gilbert J. Chapman
*Memories of Lac du Flambeau Elders*²

Wasn't that many deer then. My uncle told me, before I was born, you'd hunt deer, if you found a deer track, you stayed with it. Because of all that pine, there was no food under there. All that needle killed everything. Till they logged it, then the deer started coming. Used to migrate, that's why they called it Fence Lake. Indians cut down trees, you know. And they'd leave openings, That's where the deer would migrate south.Then they'd start going back in the fall. That's where they'd kill them, shoot them, in those openings.

—Gilbert J. Chapman
*Memories of Lac du Flambeau Elders*³

The old fence in Flambeau that gave the lake its name began down by the swamp area by the lake...The fence headed northwest up along where...the old T&L Minimart [was] and where [there now is a] gas company. It continued NW through where the school is today, and all the way to Pokegama (elbow) Lake. The fence was made by felling timbers and shoring up any places where the wiley waswashkeshi might sneak through....

—Ernie St. Germain, Ojibwe Elder
Lakeland Times, November 2010

and is drained by a stream or channel. Its flow enters the lake from a small creek and exits the lake at its west end where it enters Big Crawling Stone Lake, ultimately flowing through Flambeau lake into the Bear River.

Fence Lake stratifies annually, with the hypolimnion reaching dissolved oxygen below 5mg/L. With Secchi readings averaging 16.95 feet, the lake's water clarity is considered to be good.



Figure 13-1. Map of Lakes

Table 13-1. Basic Data for Fence Lake

Morphology	
Acreage (Acres)	3555
Maximum Depth (Feet)	86
Mean Depth (Feet)	37
Retention Time (Years)	11
Drainage Area (Acres)	8682
Drainage Basin/Lake Area Ratio	2.44
Vegetation	
Survey Data Collected	2011
Number of Native Species	26
Floristic Quality Index	34.6
Simpson's Diversity Index	0.93
Percent Vegetated (%)	32.53
Average Conservatism	6.92
Water Quality	
Trophic State	Mesotrophic
Limiting Nutrient	Phosphorus
Water Acidity (pH)	7.3
Sensitivity of Acid Rain	Low
Watershed to Lake Area Ratio	2:01
Aquatic Invasive Species	
	Rainbow Smelt Banded Mystery Snail Purple Loosestrife

Based on Secchi depth, total phosphorus, and Chlorophyll a data, Fence Lake is classified as mesotrophic. Mesotrophic lakes generally have medium levels of nutrients and water clarity when compared to other natural lakes.

Fence Lake's watershed includes forests (58%), water (33%), wetlands (8%), and urban (1%).

There are 306 dwellings, mostly residential, within 300 feet of the lake's shoreline. Fence Lake has a public landing owned and managed by the Tribe, off of Thorofare Road.

Brief History of Fence Lake

The history of Fence Lake, including how uses of the lake have changed over time, parallels the history of the other lakes in the Bear River Watershed as described in Section 3. Unless noted otherwise, the information here is footnoted in Section 3.

For hundreds of years Fence Lake was used by indigenous people for subsistence. Virtually every facet of their lives depended on their relationship with the lake and its surrounding habitats for food, medicine, building materials, and transportation.

With the arrival of the Europeans in the early to mid-seventeenth century, Fence Lake and the surrounding habitats took on a new use; to help provide the world with furs. Lac du Flambeau became a transportation center for the fur trade, and Fence Lake became part of the network of canoe routes and portages which linked Lac du Flambeau with trade routes in all directions. Fence Lake, for example, was part of the primary route linking Lac du Flambeau with Lake Tomahawk and the Wisconsin River to the east.⁵

By 1840 the fur-bearing animals were gone and Fence Lake and its surrounding habitats took on another new use: to provide the country with timber and timber products. To facilitate the movement of logs from Fence Lake to the mills on Long Interlaken Lake, a dam was constructed at the confluence of

Flambeau Lake and the Bear River. Consequently, the water level of Fence Lake rose as much as three feet, destroying the shorelines.

By 1913, the trees around Fence Lake were gone and most of the surrounding habitats were destroyed. In the early 1900s, however, the logging industry was already being replaced by the service industry, which used Fence Lake and its surrounding habitats to meet the recreational needs and demands of tourists and seasonal residents.

As a result of the Dawes Act in 1887, much of the lakefront property on Fence Lake was transferred from the Tribe to non-Tribal residents, opening the shorelines to development.

In 1914, the Ojibwe Lodge, a private sporting club was built on the northeast shore of Fence Lake.⁶ In 1936, Claud Robinson purchased Camp Council, 57 acres and 1500 feet of frontage, so he and his wife, Nancy, could convert it into a summer camp for boys. They built an 80-foot long stone and log main lodge, added 3 more cabins and other buildings, and Adventurer's Camp opened to campers in 1937. The camp offered educational and recreational adventures for 80 boys in two six-week sessions. The lodge burned down in 1978 and the Robinsons decided to sell the property.⁷

Meanwhile, the Mars family, founders of the Mars Candy Company, bought property on the eastern shore of Fence Lake and established the unincorporated community of Marlands. A large timber lodge was constructed along with several small cottages and a private boat channel. The lodge was a notable structure, held together by wooden pegs rather than nails. In the 1970s, the lodge was destroyed by fire. The bay in Fence Lake where Marlands was located is known as Mars Bay.⁸

In 1950, the Johnson Wax Company purchased the Lighthouse Resort from Carl Nemetz.⁹ The company bought additional land in 1988 and added four cabins in 2004. The private resort is currently

operated for the employees, retirees, and families of SC Johnson and Son, Inc.¹⁰

By the 1960s, vacationers to Fence Lake could stay at resorts like Fence Lake Lodge, Bob Peck's Resort, Rock-A-Way Resort, Shady Lake Resort, and Gromacki's Muskie Lodge.¹¹ Today, the Lighthouse Resort is the only resort on Fence Lake.

Fence Lake is connected to Big Crawling Stone Lake by a channel at its western end and to the Twin Placid Lakes at its south end. The channel between Fence Lake and Big Crawling Stone Lake was originally a stream important to early canoe transportation and trade routes. With the construction of the Bear River Dam in 1887, the channel was used to float logs from Fence Lake through Big Crawling Stone Lake to the mills on Long Interlaken Lake.

In 1931, the Lakeland Times reported on work being done to widen and deepen the stream connecting Fence Lake with Big Crawling Stone Lake to allow for motorboat travel: "*At present there is a rowboat channel between Fence and Crawling Stone lakes. The new canal will be a fine project of 1,000 feet in length and 50 feet wide at the top, making a four foot depth with a 25-foot dredge at the bottom.*" The same article indicates that the Flambeau Waters Improvement Association was considering the possibility of improving the channels for motorboat traffic between Big and Little Twin Lakes (Placids), Fence, Crawling Stone, Long, Flambeau, Fence, Muskellunge (Moss), and Little Crawling Stone Lakes.¹²

The Association's influence led to repairing and heightening the dam at the Bear River. This caused floods and damage to the shorelines throughout the chain, so in 1934 the State of Wisconsin ordered that the Flambeau dam be lowered.¹³

Community Survey¹⁴

Approximately 3,000 households in Lac du Flambeau were invited to participate in a mail survey

during the summer of 2012 to provide information for preparing the *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan*. The survey was developed with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and was approved by the WDNR before it was distributed.

The survey includes questions on topics such as residents' perceptions of the quality of lake water, fishery, and overall environment; residents' familiarity with aquatic invasive species and aquatic plants; residents' perceptions of current and ideal shoreline landscaping; and residents' interests in a variety of workshops. The survey, data tables, and other information related to the survey are in the appendix.

One-third of the questionnaires (996) were returned completed, representing 51 lakes. Of the returned questionnaires, 576 (58%) provide information on the ten lakes in the Bear River watershed and of these, 123 (21%) focus on Fence Lake.

Tables presenting results of the survey are presented throughout the rest of this section. Care should be taken when interpreting the survey data because in many cases the number of respondents for Fence Lake is very low.

Assessing Lake Health

Medical doctors assess human health by examining a patient's blood work, height, weight among numerous other measures (quantitative data) and by considering information like the patient's answers to questions, comments, even body language (qualitative data). Similarly, lake managers assess lake health by examining the lake's oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, among other measures (quantitative data) and by considering additional information about the lake like the presence of aquatic invasive species, nuisance aquatic plants, or even presence of trash (qualitative data).

Fence Lake Health Report

Assessing the health of Fence Lake has included examining qualitative and quantitative data pertinent to the lake's biology, chemistry, nutrients, habitat, bacteria, aesthetics, and fish tissue. These categories are introduced in the next few pages and are addressed at length in the rest of the section.

Table 13-2 shows the categories, their subdivisions (Indicator Assessments), and the ratings that have been applied to them, *Excellent*, *Good*, *Fair*, *Poor*, *Concern* or *Not Assessed* (See Section 10 for details on rating).

Table 13-2. Fence Lake Health Report

Category	Indicator Assessment		Overall Status
Biology	Invasive aquatic plant	Excellent	Good
	Invasive fish	Good	
	Invasive invertebrate	Good	
	Invasive wetland plant	Good	
	FQI	Good	
Chemistry	Dis. Oxygen DO	Good	Excellent
	pH pH	Excellent	
	Temperature	Excellent	
	Ionic Strength	Excellent	
	Sus. Solids SS	Excellent	
Nutrients	Phosphorus P	Excellent	Excellent
	Chlorophyll a	Excellent	
Habitat	Plants H	Excellent	Good
	Riparian Zone	Good	
	Littoral zone	Fair	
Bacteria	Bacteria	NA	NA
Aesthetics	Oil & Grease	Excellent	Excellent
	Taste & Odor	NA	
	Turb/Color	Excellent	
	Nuisance Plants	Excellent	
	Trash /Debris	Good	
Tissue	Spec. Chem. Hg	Concern	Concern
Lake Level	Level	NA	NA

The Biology Category reflects an assessment of the number and magnitude of invasive species. Fence Lake has banded mystery snail, and rainbow smelt,

but none at nuisance levels. Other than purple loosestrife in the channel, the lake does not have any invasive plants.¹⁵ The floristic quality index¹⁶ is excellent, indicating that Fence Lake's overall status for the Biology Category is also *excellent*.

The Chemistry Category reflects an assessment¹⁷ of data for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, ionic strength, and suspended solids as compared to Water Quality Standards Criteria.¹⁸ Dissolved Oxygen for Fence Lake during the summer can reach below 5mg/L, the criteria for cool water fish, so it has a status of *good*. Fence Lake's overall status for the Chemistry Category is *excellent*.

The Nutrients Category reflects an assessment¹⁹ of data for phosphorus and Chlorophyll *a* levels as compared to National Lake Survey (NLS) thresholds²⁰ for the Upper Midwest ecoregion health conditions and for the upper limit compared to Wisconsin's new Water Quality Standards for a two-story fishery lake.²¹ The NLS was a study of Lakes across the United States, and thresholds for good, fair and poor were developed based on the data collected for each ecoregion. Fence Lake's overall status for the Nutrients Category is *excellent* as average total phosphorus is 10.58µg/L, and Chlorophyll *a* is 2.24µg/L.

The Habitat Category reflects an assessment²² of Fence Lake's aquatic plants, riparian zone (shoreline), and littoral zone (shallow water along shoreline). Comparisons are made with ecoregional data and National Lake Survey thresholds.²³ All indicators for Fence Lake have a rating of *good*. Fence Lake's overall status for the Habitat Category is *good*.

The Bacteria Category reflects an assessment²⁴ of summer *E. coli* measurements that were taken weekly and then compared to Water Quality Standards criteria²⁵ for human health protection. Fence Lake's overall status was not assessed as Fence Lake does not have a public swimming beach.

The Aesthetics Category reflects an assessment of data and information on water quality, color, and turbidity as well as an assessment of reports received by the Tribal Natural Resources Department for Fence Lake on the presence of oil, grease, nuisance aquatic plants, and trash/debris. This information is compared to narrative criteria as described the Water Quality in the Water Quality Standards.²⁶ Fence Lake's overall status for the Aesthetics Category is *excellent*.

The Tissue Category reflects an assessment of the amount of mercury in the flesh of fish in Fence Lake as compared to the Water Quality Standards.²⁷ Larger edible fish have more mercury in their flesh than what is protective for human health concerns. Fence Lake's overall status for the Tissue Category is of *concern*.

The Lake levels were assessed for Fence Lake but a condition criteria has not been developed at this time. Information about lake levels is presented at the end of this section.

Biology Category

Biology is the science of living organisms. The organisms that live together in the lake interact in large part based on their food relationships, i.e., within a food web. The food pyramid for lakes (Figure 13-2) shows the proportion of biological production to the yield of large fish. The organisms are in balance after thousands of years of naturally evolving together within these food relationships. Invasive species, however, are organisms that evolved originally in other locations and when they move into a naturally balanced area disrupt the native organisms' relationships.

Invasive species are a great concern. Their introduction can cause changes of native organisms' distribution and abundance and contribute to water quality degradation. The introduction of the invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian water milfoil, can cause the reduction in large game fish as the native insects and small fish have not evolved to eat EWM,

causing a loss of food resource for large fish and an overabundance of plant matter.

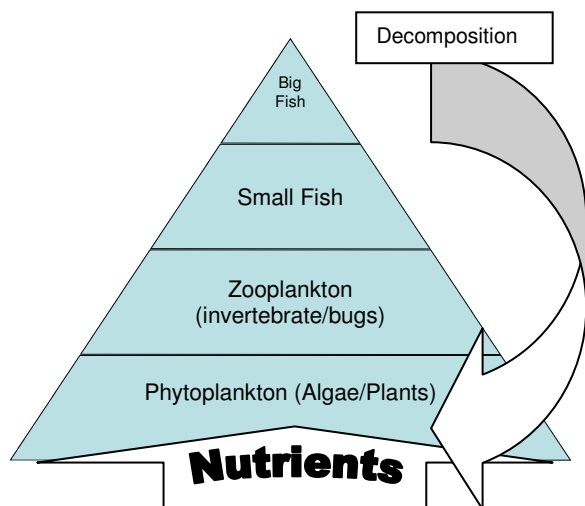


Figure 13-2. Lake Food Pyramid

Fence Lake has banded mystery snail, rainbow smelt, and purple loosestrife (see Section 7 for specifics). At this time, however, there is no evidence that they are disturbing the abundance or distribution of native organisms or causing economic or ecological harm.

To help determine the extent of residents' familiarity with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), the community survey asked residents to answer a few questions about AIS. Their responses to some of the questions follow.

Residents were asked if they had heard of AIS before reading about them in the survey. For Fence Lake, 43 of 123 respondents (35%) indicated they had prior knowledge of AIS as compared to 171 of 576 (30%) for respondents of the ten lakes in the Bear Watershed, and 300 of 996 (30%) for all respondents from Lac du Flambeau.

Residents having prior knowledge of AIS were shown a list of AIS and then asked which, if any, are currently in the lake. Table 13-3 shows the responses of 43 residents for Fence Lake, as percent perceived presence. The table also shows whether the AIS are actually in the lake. For

example, 7 of the 43 residents believe that Eurasian water milfoil is in the lake, when in fact it is not. The table shows there is a general disconnect between residents' perceptions of the presence of AIS and the actual presence of AIS.

Table 13-3. Fence Lake - Perceived vs Actual Presence of AIS

AIS	# Respondents	Perceived Presence	Actually Present
Banded Mystery Snail	7 of 43	16%	Yes
Eurasian Water Milfoil	7 of 43	16%	No
Rainbow Smelt	8 of 43	19%	Yes
Chinese Mystery Snail	3 of 43	7%	No
Freshwater Jellyfish	0 of 43	0%	No
Rusty Crayfish	13 of 43	30%	No
Curly-leaf Pondweed	1 of 43	2%	No
Purple Loosestrife	2 of 43	5%	Yes
None of Above	9 of 43	21%	

The same 43 respondents were asked to identify what they believe is threatened by AIS. Table 13-4 summarizes the responses for Fence Lake, the ten lakes in the Bear River Watershed, and the 51 lakes in the survey. The largest percentages of responses for all three groups of respondents show that native fish, aquatic plants, and water quality as most threatened. The lowest percentage of responses for all three groups of respondents is for air quality.

Table 13-4. Fence Lake - Perceived to be Threatened by Aquatic Invasive Species

	Fence Lake		Bear River Lakes		All Lakes	
	# Respondents	%	# Respondents	%	# Respondents	%
Native Fish	17 of 43	40%	75 of 171	44%	113 of 302	37%
Air Quality	0 of 43	0%	9 of 171	5%	16 of 302	5%
Aquatic Plants	16 of 43	37%	60 of 171	35%	92 of 302	31%
Wetlands	5 of 43	12%	31 of 171	18%	45 of 302	15%
Shoreline Plants	9 of 43	21%	47 of 171	28%	72 of 302	24%
Amphibians	4 of 43	9%	33 of 171	19%	48 of 302	16%
Water Quality	21 of 43	49%	83 of 171	49%	125 of 302	41%
Crustaceans	3 of 43	7%	32 of 171	19%	42 of 302	14%

Other	2 of 43	5%	5 of 171	3%	8 of 302	3%
None	4 of 43	9%	28 of 171	16%	72 of 302	24%

The same residents were also asked if they are concerned about AIS getting into the lake. Table 13-5 shows that for 42 respondents for Fence Lake, 41% indicate *extremely concerned*, 43% *somewhat concerned*, 8% *not too concerned*, 0% *not concerned at all*, and 8% *unsure*. Data for all three reference groups shows respondents have great concern about AIS getting into the lakes.

Table 13-5. Fence Lake - Concern about AIS Getting into the Lake

Lake	# Respondents	Extremely	Somewhat	Not Too	Not at All	Unsure
Fence Lake	42	41%	43%	8%	0%	8%
Bear River Lakes	170	49%	41%	4%	0%	7%
All Lakes	294	42%	42%	9%	2%	6%

The same residents were asked if they have been taking time to look for AIS in the lake. Table 13-6 shows that for 41 respondents affiliated with Fence Lake, 44% indicate not at all, 29% once a season, 20% monthly 2% weekly, and 5% daily. The data for Fence Lake is similar to the data for the other lakes and shows that despite concern for AIS, very few residents indicate they spend time looking for AIS regularly.

Table 13-6. Fence Lake - Time Spent Checking for AIS During Open Water Season

	Fence Lake		Bear River Lakes		All Lakes	
	# Respondents	%	# Respondents	%	# Respondents	%
Not at all	18 of 41	44%	66 of 161	41%	114 of 280	41%
Once a Season	12 of 41	29%	45 of 161	28%	85 of 280	30%
Once a Month	8 of 41	20%	30 of 161	19%	47 of 280	17%
Once a Week	1 of 41	2%	12 of 161	8%	21 of 280	8%
Once a Day	2 of 41	5%	8 of 161	5%	13 of 280	5%

Chemistry Category

Chemistry is the science of matter and its properties and composition with a particular focus on the properties of chemical bonds. Dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, ionic strength, and suspended solids each have a particular role in chemical bonding and movement of chemicals within the lake.

Seasonal changes and water temperature of the lake have an impact on the amount of dissolved oxygen in the lake, important for fish respiration and viability (see Section 9, *About Understanding Lakes*).

Dissolved oxygen in Fence Lake during the summer and late winter can reach below 5mg/L, the minimum criteria for cool water fish (Figure 13-3). Lake whitefish (*Coregonus elupearformis*), for example, is a cool water fish that is very susceptible to temperature and dissolved oxygen. Fence Lake has had occasional die-offs of whitefish in the shallow parts of the lake where the fish were confined.

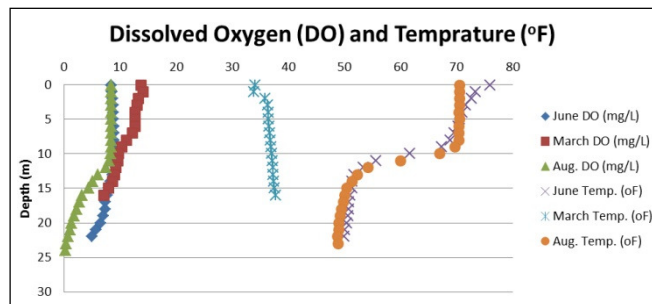


Figure 13-3. Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature for Fence Lake

Calcium for Fence Lake as measured in 1990 was on average 3 mg/L, quite low, meaning Fence may be less susceptible to infestations of Zebra Mussels.

pH is the measure of acidity or the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration (see Section 9, *About Understanding Lakes*). The pH range for Fence Lake is variable, yet averages neutral with a variance of plus or minus 1.5. Much of the variation is likely due to whether the measurements were taken off of the bottom sediments or at the surface.

Nutrients Category

Based on Secchi, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll data, Fence Lake’s trophic state is Mesotrophic, meaning it has medium amounts of nutrients to support a productive food web. A productive food web includes a diversity of rooted plants, macro-invertebrates (insects), and healthy fish populations.

Phosphorus and nitrogen are two nutrients that play key roles in limiting the growth of +-aquatic plants and algae (see Section 9, *About Understanding Lakes*). Of these, phosphorus is most critical to Fence Lake.

Phosphorus originates from sources like human and animal wastes, soil erosion, detergents, septic systems and runoff from lawns. Phosphorus is the

limiting nutrient for Fence Lake, meaning that when the amount of phosphorus increases, the probability of algae growth also increases. Total phosphorus between 10 and 18ug/L is associated with Mesotrophic and medium production of biomass (Figure 13-4).

As the amount of algae increases, it is likely that the amount of Chlorophyll *a* increases. Chlorophyll *a* is a green pigment present in all plant life and is necessary for photosynthesis. The amount of Chlorophyll *a* is a common measure of water quality (Figure 13-5).

Figure 13-6 shows Secchi, total phosphorus, and Chlorophyll *a* TSI for Fence Lake from 1979 until present. No significant change in water quality is

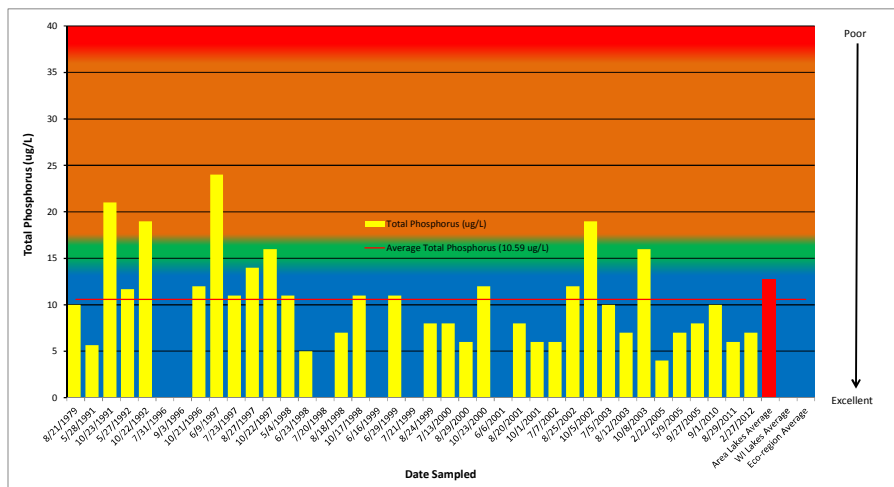


Figure 13-4. Fence Lake Phosphorus Concentrations

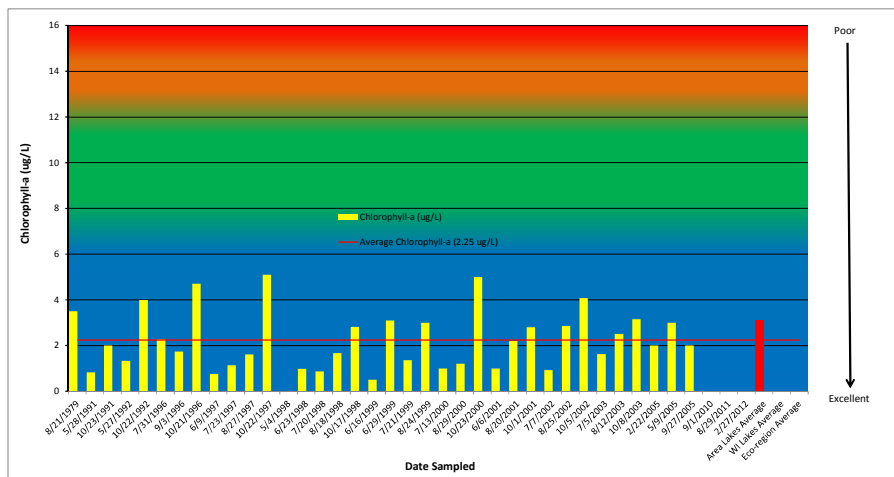


Figure 13-5. Chlorophyll *a* Concentrations in Fence Lake

noted over this time period.

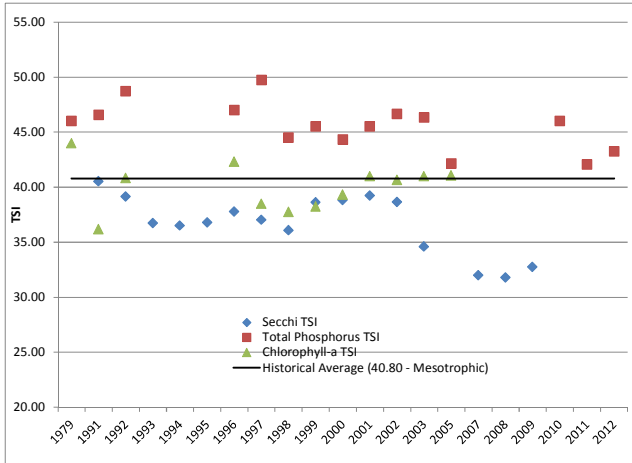


Figure 13-6. Fence Lake TSI for Secchi, Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll a

Fence Lake's shoreline includes primarily seasonal residences and properties. Though the lake's shoreline has been almost completely developed, the watershed overall remains forested. More growth and development are expected, however, on the Highway 47 corridor with the arrival of new residents and requisite housing, roads, businesses, and support services. (Figure 13-8)

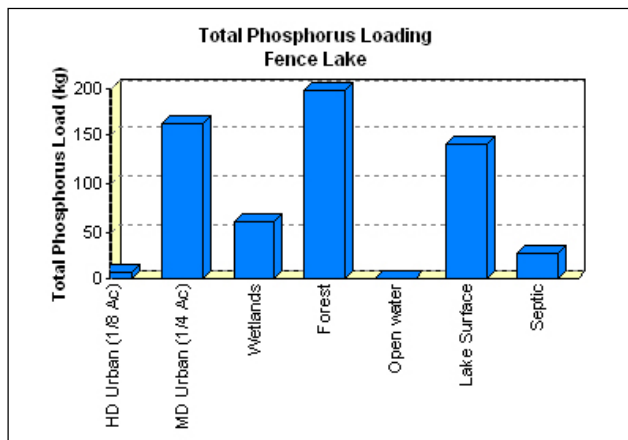


Figure 13-7. Primary Fence Lake Phosphorus Sources

Future amounts of phosphorus for Fence Lake can be anticipated by using a tool (Wisconsin Lake Modeling Suite - WILMS) designed to predict phosphorus levels based on changes of land use in the watershed (Figure 13-7).

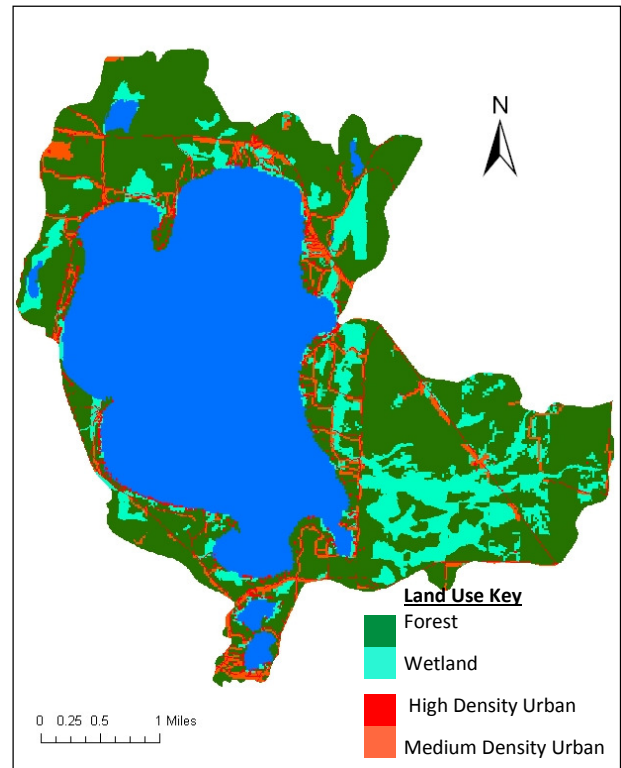


Figure 13-8. Fence Lake Land Uses (Red – Developed; Blue – Open Water; Light Green – Wetland; Dark Green – Forest)

Use of the WILMS tool reveals that medium disturbance areas characterized by the presence of roads, homes and lawns yield considerable total phosphorus per unit area while the forests contribute the most to total phosphorus. The wetland areas contribute less total phosphorus as the runoff is slowed and allowed to seep into the ground instead of washing into the lake transporting sediment and phosphorus. (Figure 13-7)

Habitat Category

Habitat refers to a specific place that is inhabited by a particular organism. Habitat includes all that the organism needs to live, including physical factors such as soil, temperature, light; and biotic factors, such as the availability of food and shelter from predators. The Habitat category includes substrate (rock, sand, muck); aquatic plants; riparian zone (shoreline); and littoral zone (shallow water along shoreline).

Substrate is the surface on which an organism grows, and rock, sand, and muck are the primary substrates of a lake. Fence Lake’s substrate is primarily sand, while the east and south edge of the lake is primarily rock sand mix (Figure 13-9). Substrate often indicates the type of plants that will grow in an area. The diversity of Fence Lake’s substrate is important to the health of the lake’s fishery.

Aquatic plants (macrophytes) are plants that grow in the water either submerged (all under water), emergent (sticking out of the water), or floating leaf. The west side of Fence Lake has a disperse area of

submerged plants with the most predominant being dwarf water-milfoil.

The Tribal Natural Resources Department assessed the aquatic plants in Fence Lake in 2011 by following the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Protocol for conducting an aquatic plant point intercept survey (see Section 8).

Table 13-7 presents the statistics associated with the point intercept survey and Figure 13-10 shows plant locations and additional data. The table shows that of the 879 sites sampled, vegetation was found at 217 sites, and 667 sites were shallower than the

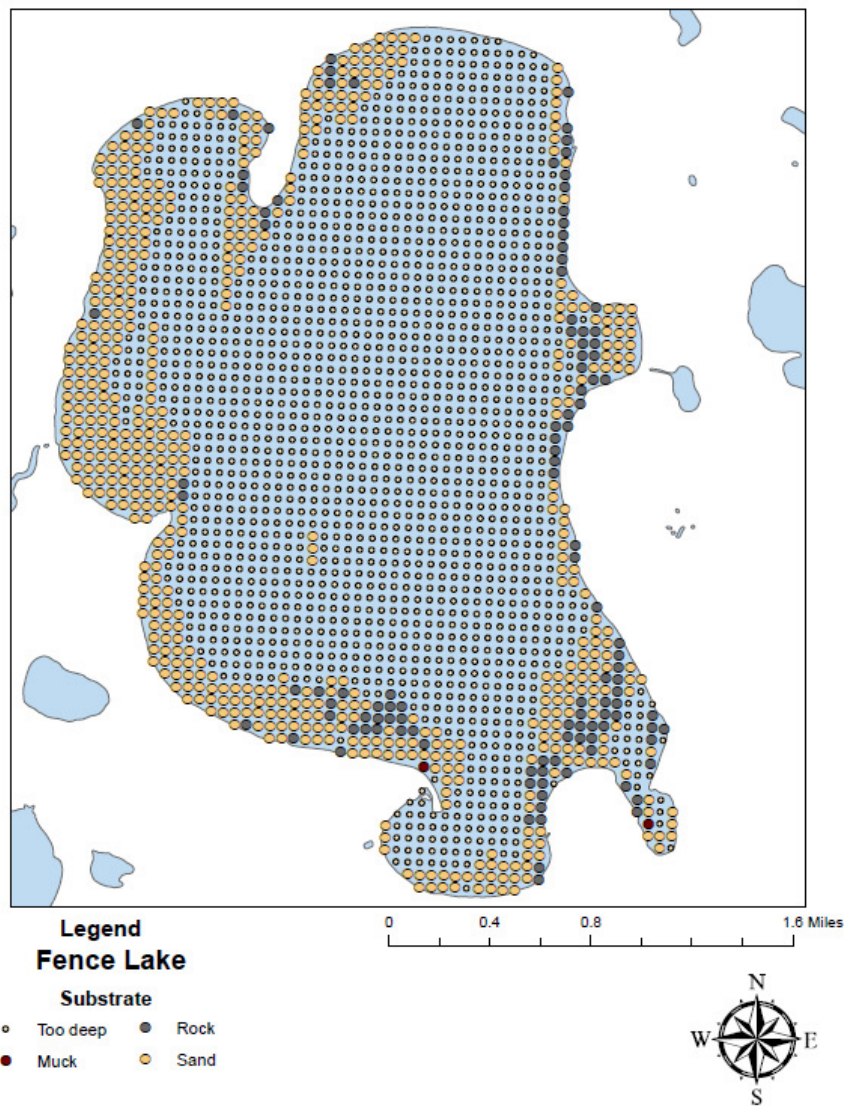


Figure 13-9. Substrate Map of Fence Lake

maximum depth of plants, 19 feet. The total number of plant species found (Taxonomic Richness - Frequency of Occurrence) is 26 plants, and the Simpson Diversity Index is 0.93. (See Section 8 for detailed explanations of the terms).

- Frequency of occurrence is an estimate of how often a particular plant species is likely to be found within a lake. The estimate is based on an analysis of the data collected during the point intercept survey.
- Simpson’s Diversity Index is a measure of how diverse a plant community is in the lake. The index is within a range of 0 to 1. The higher the value, the more diverse the plant community is in a particular lake. Plant diversity is an indicator of the lake’s overall resiliency. Generally, a lake with high species diversity is considered to be more stable than a lake with low species diversity because it has a greater ability to withstand environmental fluctuations. A lake with a diverse plant community is better equipped to compete with exotic infestations than is a lake with low diversity.

the lake. The FQI is the extent to which a lake’s plant community is similar to that of a pristine or undisturbed lake. The higher the floristic quality index, the closer a lake is to an undisturbed system.

FQI is used to determine whether a lake’s plant community is changing over time. It is also used to determine the extent to which a lake’s plant community is similar to other lakes in the same ecoregion. The Floristic Quality Index for Fence Lake was 35.89, meaning most of the plants can tolerate moderate disturbances. (Table 13-9, and Section 8).

Table 13-7. 2011 Aquatic Plant Community Statistics, Fence Lake, Vilas County, WI

Aquatic Plant Community Statistics	2011
Total sites sampled	879
Total sites with vegetation	217
Total site shallower than max depth of plants	667
Frequency of occurrence at sites shallower than maximum depth of plants	32.53%
Simpson Diversity Index	0.93
Maximum Depth of Plants (Feet)	19
Taxonomic Richness (Number Taxa)	26*
Average Number of Species per Site (sites less than max depth of plant growth)	0.45
Average Number of Species per Site (sites with vegetation)	1.37

* - There was one specie sampled that was not identified.

Table 13-8 lists the aquatic plants found in Fence Lake and shows the Floristic Quality Index (FQI) for

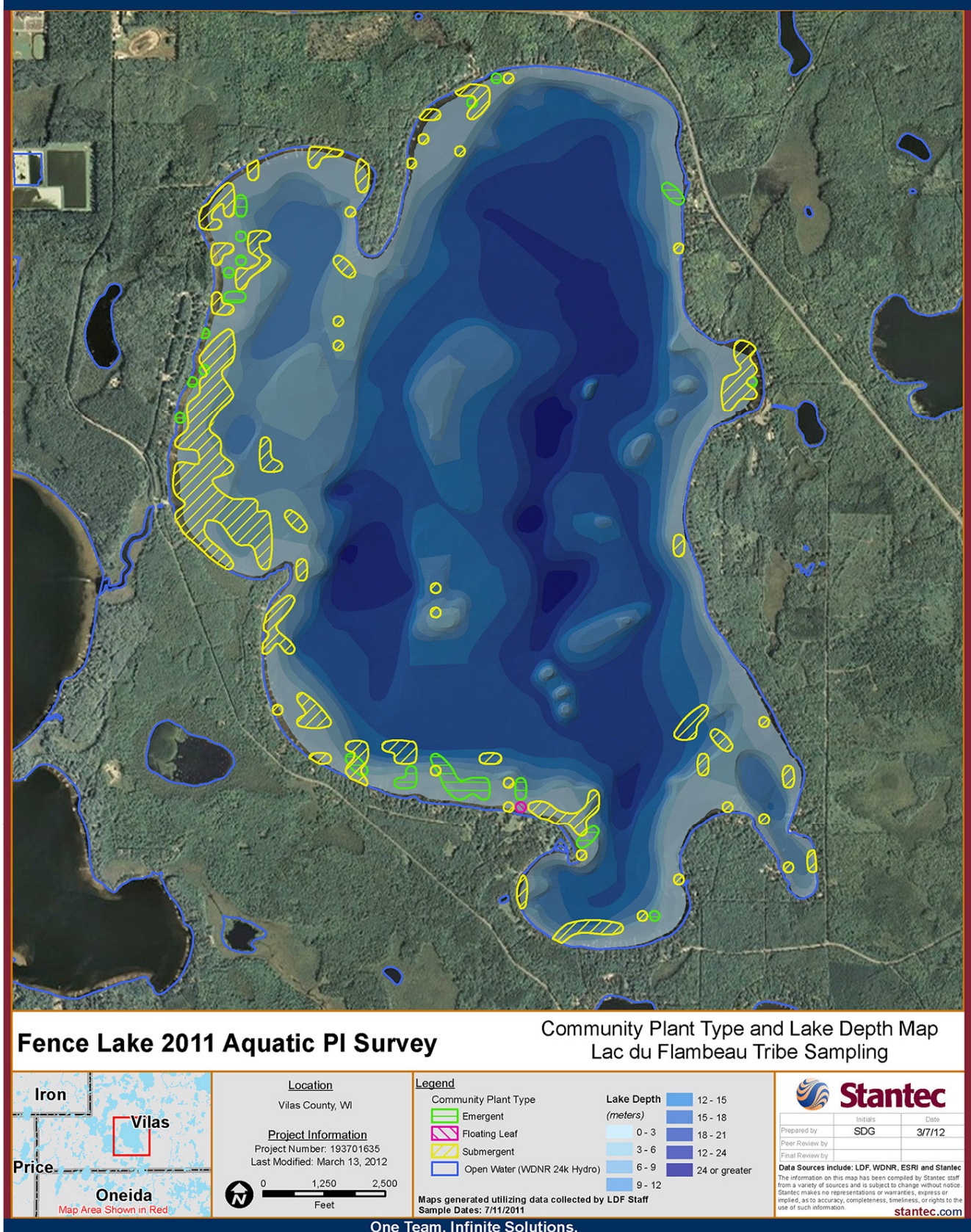


Figure 13-10. Fence Lake 2011 Aquatic Point Intercept Survey

Table 13-8. 2011 Floristic Quality Index for Fence Lake in Vilas County, WI

Genus	Species	Common Name	Coefficient of Conservatism C
<i>Bidens</i>	<i>beckii</i>	Water marigold	8
<i>Ceratophyllum</i>	<i>demersum</i>	Coontail	3
<i>Chara</i>	<i>sp.</i>	Muskgrass	7
<i>Eleocharis</i>	<i>acicularis</i>	Needle spikerush	5
<i>Eleocharis</i>	<i>palustris</i>	Creeping spikerush	6
<i>Eleocharis</i>	<i>robbinsi</i>	Robbins' spikerush	10
<i>Elodea</i>	<i>canadensis</i>	Common waterweed	3
<i>Eriocaulon</i>	<i>aquaticum</i>	Pipewort	9
<i>Isoetes</i>	<i>sp.</i>	Quillwort	8
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>pelocarpus</i>	Brown-fruited rush	8
<i>Littorella</i>	<i>uniflora</i>	Littorella	10
<i>Lobelia</i>	<i>dortmanna</i>	Water lobelia	10
<i>Myriophyllum</i>	<i>tenellum</i>	Dwarf water-milfoil	10
<i>Najas</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	Slender naiad	6
<i>Nitella</i>	<i>sp.</i>	Nitella	7
<i>Nuphar</i>	<i>variegata</i>	Spatterdock	6
<i>Potamogeton</i>	<i>amplifolius</i>	Large-leaf pondweed	7
<i>Potamogeton</i>	<i>diversifolius</i>	Water-thread pondweed	8
<i>Potamogeton</i>	<i>foliosus</i>	Leafy pondweed	6
<i>Potamogeton</i>	<i>gramineus</i>	Variable pondweed	7
<i>Potamogeton</i>	<i>richardsonii</i>	Clasping-leaf pondweed	5
<i>Potamogeton</i>	<i>robbinsii</i>	Fern pondweed	8
<i>Riccia</i>	<i>fluitans</i>	Slender riccia	7
<i>Schoenoplectus</i>	<i>tabernaemontani</i>	Softstem bulrush	4
<i>Vallisneria</i>	<i>americana</i>	Wild celery	6
		Total Species	26
		Mean C	7.04
		Floristic Quality Index (FQI)	35.89

Note: There is no Coefficient of Conservatism for exotic species such as Eurasian Water-Milfoil or for species not identified to the species level (*Sagittaria sp.*).

Coefficient of Conservatism C Value Index

- 0-3 taxa found in wide variety of plant communities and very tolerant of disturbance.
- 4-6 taxa typically associated with specific plant communities and tolerate moderate disturbance.
- 7-8 taxa found in narrow range of plant communities and tolerate minor disturbance.
- 9-10 taxa restricted to a narrow range of synecological conditions, with low tolerance of disturbance.

Littoral Zone Habitat

The littoral zone extends along the shoreline from the water’s edge into the water to a depth of about 19 feet for Fence Lake. This is the area where most of the aquatic plants grow, providing shelter for fish to reproduce and protect their young. The plants also reduce erosion caused by waves, stabilizing the shoreline.

To help determine the extent of residents’ perceptions of aquatic plants, the survey asked residents if their enjoyment of the lakes was impeded by the presence of aquatic plants in the littoral zone. Table 13-9 shows that 38% of 120 residents from Fence Lake indicate *never*, 46% *rarely*, 13% *sometimes*, 3% *often*, and 1% *always*. When comparing the data for Fence Lake with the data for the other lakes, it appears that aquatic plants are perceived to have had a slightly less negative impact.

Table 13-9. Fence Lake - Whether Aquatic Plants Impede Enjoyment of the Lake

Lakes	# Respondents	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
		%	%	%	%	%
Fence Lake	120	1%	3%	13%	46%	38%
Bear River Lakes	556	3%	4%	16%	44%	33%
All Lakes	957	3%	7%	21%	40%	29%

Residents were asked if they or members of their households have tried to control aquatic plant growth by removing plants from the lake. Table 13-10 shows that 83% of 102 respondents for Fence Lake indicate *never*, 13% *some years*, and 4% *yearly*. The data for the respondents of Fence Lake are very similar to the data to the other lakes. They rarely remove aquatic plants from the lake.

Table 13-10. Fence Lake - Removal of Aquatic Plants from the Lake

Lakes	# Respondents	Yearly	Some Years	Never
		%	%	%
Fence Lake	102	4%	13%	83%
Bear River Lakes	458	6%	14%	80%
All Lakes	816	8%	18%	74%

Residents were also asked if they or members of their household have removed trees that have fallen into Fence Lake. Table 13-11 shows that 73% of 103 respondents indicate *never*, 25% *some years*, and 2% *every year*. The data for the respondents of Fence Lake are very similar to the data to the other lakes. They rarely remove trees that have fallen into the lake.

Table 13-11. Fence Lake - Removal of Fallen Trees from the Lake

Lakes	# Respondents	Yearly	Some Years	Never
		%	%	%
Fence Lake	103	2%	25%	73%
Bear River Lakes	456	2%	27%	72%
All Lakes	814	1%	24%	75%

Residents were asked whether there is a need to control aquatic plants for Fence Lake. Table 13-12 shows that 7% of 109 respondents indicate *definitely no*, 27% *probably no*, 20% *probably yes*, and 8% *definitely yes*. Thirty-eight percent indicate they are *not sure*.

Table 13-12. Fence Lake - Whether Aquatic Plant Control is Needed

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	109 Respondents	503 Respondents	868 Respondents
Definitely yes	8%	8%	8%
Probably yes	20%	21%	19%
Probably no	27%	27%	29%
Definitely no	7%	9%	12%
Unsure	38%	35%	32%

Residents were asked what should be done if an aquatic invasive plant is found in the lake. Table 13-13 shows that for 43 respondents for Fence Lake, 21% indicate *remove with chemicals*, 21% *remove mechanically*, 19% *remove with biological control*, 56% *remove by hand*, 0% *do nothing/no treatment*, and 47% indicate they *need more information*.

Table 13-13. Fence Lake - Preferences for Treating/Removing Aquatic Invasive Plants

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	43 Respondents	171 Respondents	302 Respondents
Apply chemicals	21%	18%	15%
Use machines	21%	21%	19%
Bio-control	19%	25%	24%
No treatment	0%	3%	2%
Pull by hand	56%	49%	51%
Need more info.	47%	41%	41%

Riparian Zone Habitat

The Riparian zone is the land area along the shoreline from the water’s edge inland. In general this area is where most people access the lake via stairs or paths. It sometimes includes boathouses, storage sheds, homes, lawns, and other structures.

The riparian zone contributes the most nutrients from erosion, fertilizers, septic systems, and general runoff. The area is critical in providing woody habitat

for fish and leaf material for invertebrates, like the dragon fly which lives a life cycle requiring both water and land. It is also critical in providing habitat to sustain other animals that rely on the lakes, like song birds, eagles, loons, otter, deer, along with a multitude of other creatures. A poor riparian habitat often results in fewer species and excess nutrients, while a good riparian habitat is replete with abundant wildlife and healthy levels of nutrients.

To help determine the extent of residents’ perceptions of the riparian zone, the community survey asked residents to describe the landscape in the 35 foot buffer between the shoreline and their house, and to identify what they believe should be in an ideal landscape for the same area.

Table 13-14 lists several landscape features ordinarily found in riparian zones. Residents were asked to check those features that characterize the current riparian landscape (Current) for their property and then check those features that they believe should be in an ideal riparian landscape (Ideal). The table compares residents’ descriptions of the current landscape with their perceptions of an ideal landscape. For example, 51% of respondents affiliated with Fence Lake identify mowed grass as a feature of the current buffer zone for their property, yet 30% of them identify mowed grass in an ideal landscape.

The current primary features identified by all three respondent groups include mowed grass, wild, shrubs, and trees. When characterizing the ideal landscape, the same respondents prefer landscapes characterized by less mowed grass and less wild with fewer trees.

Table 13-14. Fence Lake - Current Shoreline Landscaping vs Ideal Shoreline Landscaping

	Fence Lake		Bear River Lakes		All Lakes	
	112 Respondents		481 Respondents		847 Respondents	
	Current	Ideal	Current	Ideal	Current	Ideal
Mowed grass	51%	30%	45%	30%	41%	28%
Rock terrace	18%	22%	19%	24%	16%	20%
Wild	37%	17%	44%	26%	44%	28%
Native prairie grasses	21%	30%	24%	27%	26%	24%
Wood terrace	4%	10%	4%	9%	5%	9%
Sand beach	29%	29%	25%	31%	26%	33%
Rain garden	2%	5%	2%	6%	2%	4%
Flower gardens	10%	13%	10%	10%	9%	9%
Shrubs	30%	19%	36%	25%	31%	22%
Wild with wood picked up	23%	19%	23%	21%	27%	22%
Trees	71%	47%	70%	50%	66%	47%
Something else	5%	4%	3%	2%	4%	3%
It doesn't matter		12%		7%		7%

Residents were asked if they are interested in learning about landscape designs tailored to help protect the lakes and habitats. Table 13-15 shows that of 102 respondents for Fence Lake, 4% indicate *no interest*, 41% *little interest*, 5% *some interest*, 7% *a lot of interest*, and 43% *don't know*.

Table 13-15. Fence Lake - Interest in Learning About Landscape Design

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	102 Respondents	443 Respondents	787 Respondents
No interest	4%	4%	4%
Little interest	41%	40%	40%
Some interest	5%	5%	6%
A lot of interest	7%	11%	11%
Don't know	43%	40%	39%

Assessment of Riparian & Littoral Zones

The Habitat Category reflects an assessment²⁷ of Fence Lake's aquatic plants, riparian zone (shoreline), and littoral zone (shallow water along shoreline). Comparisons are made with ecoregional data, National Lake Survey thresholds²⁸ and WISCALM (Table 10-4).

Riparian cover includes cover-class estimates of large and small diameter tree cover in the >5m high vegetation layer; woody and non-woody vegetation in the mid-layer (0.5 to 5 m); and woody, non-woody, inundated, and barren classes in the ground cover layer (<0.5 m) of the 10 lakeshore plots. Littoral cover index excludes submerged aquatic macrophytes, but increases the weighting of floating and emergent macrophytes.

Table 13-16 compares the thresholds developed WISCALM for Plants and the National Lake Survey for Riparian Zone and Littoral Zone to the index value calculated based on the assessment of Fence Lake's habitat.

Table 13-16. Index Values for Environmental Assessment Perceptions

Indicator Assessment	Index Value	Water Quality Assessment Thresholds			
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Plants	32.53	Below 79.7%	89.7% - 79.8%	89.8% - 94.8%	100% - 94.9%
Riparian Zone	0.92		>0.8074	0.5906-0.8074	<0.5906
Littoral zone	0.38		>0.7001	0.4156-0.7001	<.4156

Lakeshore habitat is the biggest problem in the nation's lakes; over one-third exhibit poor Shoreline condition. Poor biological health is three times more likely in lakes with poor lakeshore habitat.²⁸

To help learn about residents' perceptions on habitat and environmental change, the community survey asked residents if elements of the habitat have been changing over time. Table 13-17 shows the responses for Fence Lake, the Bear River project

present. The water quality criterion to protect human health, 235 MPN, is based on an illness rate of eight per 1,000 swimmers. Bacteria was not assessed for Fence Lake as there is no public swimming beach.

Table 13-17. Fence Lake - Perceptions of Environmental Change

	Shorelines	Wetlands	Streams	Air	Forests	Grasslands	All Environment
Fence Lake							
#Respondents	116	116	112	115	116	113	114
Improving	7%	3%	1%	4%	4%	3%	6%
No change	55%	53%	46%	66%	53%	50%	61%
Worsening	22%	11%	9%	6%	17%	8%	13%
Don't know	16%	32%	45%	24%	26%	39%	20%
Bear River Lakes							
#Respondents	534	522	513	522	524	513	526
Improving	5%	3%	1%	3%	4%	2%	5%
No change	52%	51%	42%	68%	52%	48%	54%
Worsening	30%	12%	11%	8%	24%	10%	23%
Don't know	13%	34%	46%	22%	20%	40%	18%
All Lakes							
#Respondents	923	901	873	909	910	882	903
Improving	4%	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	4%
No change	56%	55%	45%	71%	57%	52%	59%
Worsening	28%	12%	9%	5%	20%	7%	19%
Don't know	13%	31%	45%	21%	19%	40%	18%

lakes, and the other lakes. The data are very similar for all three response groups. The predominant response is *no change*.

Bacteria Category

Bacteria is assessed based on a measure of the most probable number (MPN) of *E. coli* in 100 milliliters of water. *E. coli* is the abbreviated name of the bacterium in the family *Enterobacteriaceae*, named *Escherichia coli*. The presence of *E. coli* in our intestines is normal. The presence of *E. coli* in swimming areas indicates that other microorganisms (including the ones that could causes illness) that live in the gastrointestinal track could also be

Residents were asked how often they have their septic tank inspected.

Generally, the Tribe is responsible for septic systems on property owned by the Tribe, and Vilas County is responsible for septic systems on property on non-Tribal land. Currently, all septic systems under the jurisdiction of Vilas County are on a three-year pumping/inspection schedule.

Table 13-18 shows that for 72 respondents of Fence Lake, 4% indicate they *do not own the property*, 74% *at least every three years*, 1% *no septic tank*,

14% more than every three years, and 7% no inspection.

Aesthetics Category

The Aesthetics Category includes data and information on water quality, color, and turbidity. It also reflects an assessment of reports received by the Tribal Natural Resources Department for Fence Lake on the presence of oil, grease, nuisance aquatic plants, trash, and debris.

Reports and concerns submitted by residents to the Tribal Natural Resources Department on the turbidity and color of the lake water are not uncommon.

The extent to which lake water appears to be clear or murky is a function of the total amount of solids that are suspended in the water. Generally, the greater the amount of suspended solids in the water, the murkier it appears.

The major source of turbidity in open water away from shore is typically phytoplankton (algae). Closer to shore, suspended matter also comes from sources such as septic systems, sewage treatment plants, storm runoff, shoreline erosion and lake bottom sediments.

The major effect of turbidity noticed by lake property residents might simply be aesthetic - people do not like to look at dirty water. High levels of turbidity can, however, cause major problems by inhibiting the penetration of light, leading to the suffocation of larvae, damage to fish gills, fish reproduction, and loss of aquatic plants and habitat.

Turbidity or cloudy water can be measured in a variety of ways. A method commonly used in Lac du Flambeau to measure water clarity is to employ a Secchi disk. The 8-inch diameter disk with white and black quadrants is tied to a line and lowered slowly down into the water. The depth at which the white quadrants are no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water. This information provides a way to look at changes in

Table 13-18. Fence Lake - Septic Tank Inspection

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	72 Respondents	360 Respondents	609 Respondents
Do not own property	4%	7%	4%
At least every 3 years	74%	67%	71%
No tank	1%	9%	6%
More than every 3 years	14%	12%	12%
No inspection	7%	6%	7%

water clarity over a long period of time. Secchi data also correlates to total phosphorus and trophic state index data. Figure 13-11 shows that from 1991-2009 no significant change in water clarity has occurred for Fence Lake.

The Secchi disk was created by Father Pietro Angelo Secchi in 1865. He was a priest, astronomer, and professor of physics who taught for a time at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.²⁹

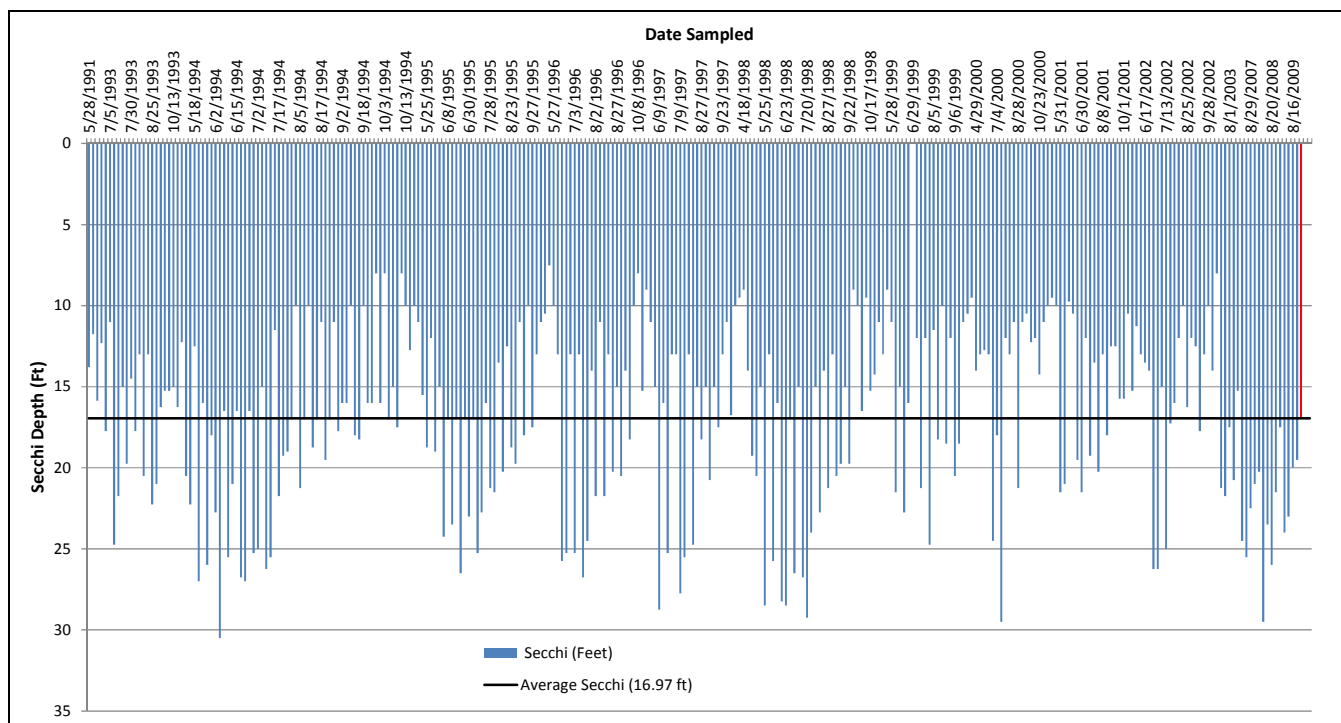


Figure 13-11. Secchi Depths for Fence Lake 1991–2009

The color of lake water reflects the type and amount of dissolved organic chemicals it contains. Transparent water with a low accumulation of dissolved materials appears blue and indicates low productivity. Dissolved organic matter, such as humus, peat or decaying plant matter, can produce a yellow or brown color. Some algae produce a reddish or deep yellow color. Water rich in phytoplankton and other algae usually appears green.

Volunteers for Fence Lake have been subjectively observing and recording the lake’s water color in the North Bay since 1994 and the South Bay since 1993 as part of the WDNR’s Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. Table 13-19 summarizes the observations for the North Bay and Table 13-20 for the South Bay. The numbers preceding the colors indicate the number of dates of observation. For the North Bay, blue was identified 73 times, green 59 times, and brown 4 times. For the South Bay, blue was identified 106 times, green 9 times, and brown 7 times. The specific dates of the observations are available on the Citizen Lake Monitoring website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>. The website also

shows that despite the variations in water color, the observers reported that, with very few exceptions, the water appeared to be clear.

Table 13-19. Fence Lake North Bay - Lake Water Color

Year	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
1994	4 Blue	7 Blue	1 Blue 2 Green 1 Brown	8 Green	1 Blue 5 Green	1 Blue 3 Green
1995	3 Blue	4 Blue	3 Blue	3 Blue	3 Blue	
1996		2 Blue	4 Blue	3 Blue	2 Blue	1 Blue
1997		2 Blue	2 Blue	1 Blue	2 Green	2 Green
1998	3 Blue	3 Blue	1 Blue	2 Green	3 Green	3 Green
1999		3 Blue	2 Blue	2 Green	2 Blue	
2000		1 Blue	1 Blue	1 Green		2 Brown
2001	1 Blue	2 Blue 1 Green		3 Green	1 Green	2 Green
2002			4 Green	2 Green	1 Green	1 Green
2003		1 Green	1 Green	2 Green		1 Brown
2007			2 Blue	1 Blue	2 Blue	
2008			1 Blue	3 Green		1 Green
2009			1 Blue 1 Green	1 Green	1 Green	

Table 13-20. Fence Lake South Bay - Lake Water Color

Year	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
1993	2 Blue 1 Green	3 Blue	2 Blue	3 Green 1 Brown	3 Green 2 Brown	3 Brown
1994	1 Blue 2 Green	3 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	3 Blue
1995	1 Blue 1 Brown	2 Blue	1 Blue	3 Blue	3 Blue	2 Blue
1996	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue
1997	1 Blue	2 Blue	1 Blue	3 Blue	3 Blue	2 Blue
1998	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	3 Blue	1 Blue
1999	2 Blue	1 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue
2000	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	2 Blue	1 Blue	1 Blue
2001	1 Blue	3 Blue	1 Blue	3 Blue	3 Blue	1 Blue

In order to learn about residents’ perceptions of the lake water quality, the community survey posed a few questions about water quality. Residents were asked to describe the current water quality of Fence Lake and whether they believe that quality has been changing. Table 13-21 shows that 39% of 118 respondents for Fence Lake indicate that the current water quality of the lake is *excellent*, 50% *good*, 6% *fair*, 1% *poor*, 0% *very poor*, and 4% are *unsure*. The data for Fence Lake regarding perceptions of current water quality are very consistent with the data for the other lakes identified in the table.

Table 13-21. Fence Lake - Perception of Current Water Quality

Lakes	# Respondents	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Unsure
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Fence Lake	118	39%	50%	6%	1%	0%	4%
Bear River Lakes	554	38%	49%	7%	3%	0.2%	3%
All Lakes	956	34%	53%	7%	3%	0.1%	3%

Table 13-22 shows that 2% of 114 respondents for Fence Lake indicate that water has been *improving*, 60% *no change*, 18% *worsening*, and 20% are *unsure*. Again, the data for Fence Lake are

reasonably consistent with the data for the other lakes noted in the table.

Table 13-22. Fence Lake - Perception of Change in Water Quality

Lakes	# Respondents	Improving	No Change	Worsening	Unsure
		%	%	%	%
Fence Lake	114	2%	60%	18%	20%
Bear River Lakes	519	1%	60%	17%	22%
All Lakes	719	2%	62%	16%	20%

Fish Tissue Category & Fishery

The Fish Tissue Category refers to the amount of mercury in fish flesh as compared to Water Quality Standards. Larger edible fish have more mercury in the fish flesh than what is protective for human health concerns. Tribal Water Quality Standards are protective for subsistence fish consumption and the criterion to protect human health is 0.16 PPM.

Anthropogenic (meaning caused by human activity) sources of mercury are mainly from coal fired electric utilities emissions that ultimately enter the lake and watershed via rainwater. The chemistry of Lac du Flambeau Lakes is such that mercury becomes mobilized into the food chain accumulating in larger fish at the top of the food chain. Reductions in mercury emissions on coal fired power plants have helped to reduce mercury in the rain as seen from data collected on the Flambeau Chain of Lakes. (Figure 13-12)

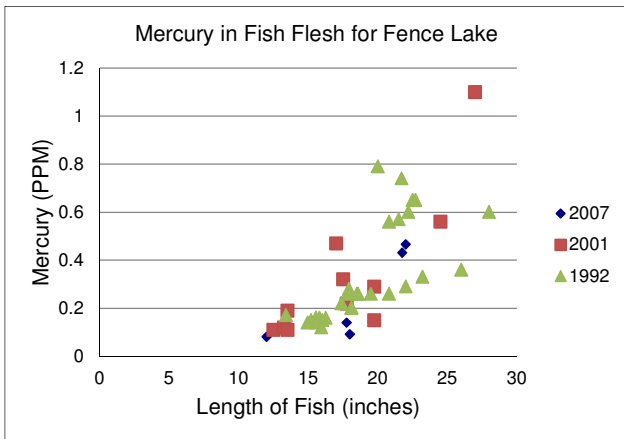


Figure 13-12. Mercury Concentrations in Fish Tissue vs Size in Inches

Fence Lake’s fishery supports both subsistence and sport fishing. The lake’s fishery includes panfish such as bluegill and black crappie and gamefish like smallmouth and largemouth bass, northern pike, musky, walleye, and brown trout.

The Tribal Hatchery has a history of stocking Fence Lake, particularly with walleye, musky, sturgeon, and brown trout. Table 13-23 shows the numbers of these fish that have been stocked in Fence Lake from 2003-2012.

Table 13-23. Number of Fish Stocked 2003–2012 - Fence Lake (3,340 acres)

Year	Walleye		Sturgeon	Musky	Brown Trout
	Fry	Fingerlings	Fingerlings	Fry	
2012	2,000,000	32,197			16,128
2011	2,500,000	33,000	75	10,000	43,286
2010	2,000,000	18,312			
2009	2,000,000	31,361	300	15,000	
2008	2,000,000	19,500		35,000	
2007	2,000,000	82,704	400		
2006	1,600,000	50,985			
2005	2,000,000	43,845	1,091		
2004	600,000	32,450			
2003	400,000	18,750			

In order to determine residents’ perceptions on the quality of fishing and whether that quality has been

changing, the survey asked residents a few questions about the fishery. Residents were asked if they have fished or speared on Fence Lake within the past ten years. Ninety-six of 123 respondents (78%) responded affirmatively.

These respondents were then asked to identify the type of fishing they employed. Of those who responded, 98% indicate *open water hook and line fishing*, 35% *ice fishing*, 1.0% *spearing*, and 1% *netting*.

The residents who have fished or speared within the past ten years were asked to describe the current quality of fishing on the lake, and how, if at all, the quality of fishing on the lake has changed during the past ten years.

Table 13-24 shows that of the 91 Fence Lake residents who responded about the current quality of fishing, 7% indicate *excellent*, 31% *good*, 44% *fair*, 12% *poor*, and 2% *very poor*. Six percent indicated *unsure*. The responses for Fence Lake are similar to the responses for the other lakes.

Table 13-24. Fence Lake - Perceptions of Current Quality of Fishing

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	91 Respondents	397 Respondents	750 Respondents
Excellent	7%	5%	5%
Good	31%	34%	34%
Fair	44%	42%	44%
Poor	12%	13%	11%
Very Poor	2%	4%	4%
Unsure	6%	3%	2%

Regarding whether the quality of fishing has changed during the past ten years, Table 13-25 shows that of 92 Fence Lake respondents, 12% indicate fishing has *been improving*, 29% *no change*, 32% *worsening*, and 27% *unsure*. A higher percentage of respondents for Fence Lake indicate

the quality of fishing has been slightly improving as compared to respondents of the other lakes.

Table 13-25. Fence Lake - Perceptions of Change of Fishing Quality

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	92 Respondents	414 Respondents	750 Respondents
Improving	12%	9%	8%
No Change	29%	28%	31%
Worsening	32%	42%	42%
Unsure	27%	21%	20%

Lake Water Levels

Lake levels fluctuate naturally due to precipitation and evaporation, which can vary widely from season to season and year to year. Low levels may cause stressful conditions for fish and increase the number of nuisance aquatic plants. High water levels can boost the amounts of nutrients from runoff of flooded lakeshore soils. Another consequence of fluctuating water levels is shoreline erosion.

Volunteers from Lac du Flambeau have been subjectively observing and noting lake water levels through the WDNR’s Citizen Lake Monitoring Network for many years, while in 2012 the Tribal Natural Resources Department began to collect water level data systematically for selected lakes. With assistance from North Lakeland Discovery Center, Vilas County Association of Lakes, and Town Lakes Committee, monitoring equipment was installed and calibrated on sites at Little Crawling Stone Lake, Fence Lake (Figure 13-13), Flambeau Lake, Ike Walton Lake and White Sand Lake. The equipment at the Flambeau Lake site is being monitored by the Tribal Resources Department while equipment at the other sites is being monitored by volunteer lakefront property owners.

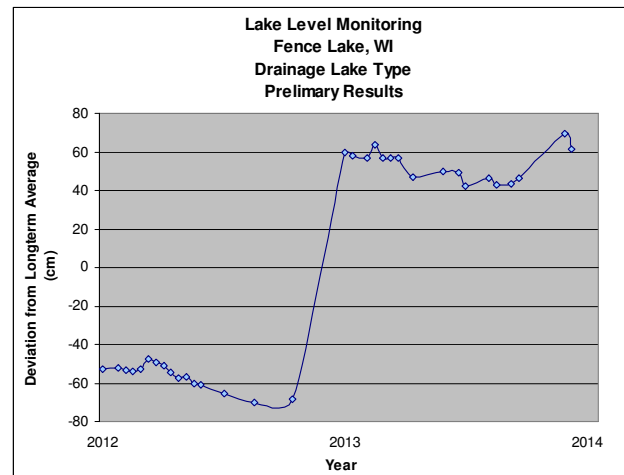


Figure 13-13. Lake Water Level Fluctuations During 2012-2014

The numbers of observations of lake water levels noted through the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network for the North Bay from 1994–2009 are in Table 13-26, and the numbers for the South Bay from 1993-2002 are in Table 13-27.

Table 13-26. Fence Lake North Bay - Number of Observations of Lake Water Levels

Year	Low	Normal	High
1994			3
1995			
1996			
1997		1	
1998	19		
1999	9		
2000		5	
2001	1	7	
2002		8	
2003		4	
2007	5		
2008	2		3
2009	4		

Table 13-27. Fence Lake South Bay - Number of Observations of Lake Water Levels

Year	Low	Normal	High
1993	1		3
1994			3
1995		4	6
1996		1	1
1997			13
1998	7		6
1999	3		10
2000		9	2
2001	3	3	5
2002		7	3

Other Survey Results for Fence Lake

Residents affiliated with Fence Lake who responded to the survey in 2012 shared their perceptions on several topics in addition to those already presented in this section.

Activities & Watercraft

From a list of activities (fishing excluded), residents were asked to identify those in which they most often choose to participate. The activities most often identified include relaxing and enjoying nature (74%), swimming (84%), and motor-boating (81%). The activities least often identified include sailing (14%), ricing (0%), and trapping (1%).

From a list of different types of watercraft, residents were asked to identify those which they and members of their household use most often. The watercraft most often identified include motorboats with more than 25 hp (68%), pontoon boats (54%), and canoes or kayaks (55%). Watercraft least often identified include row boats (16%), paddleboats (31%), and sailboats (13%). Two percent of the respondents indicate they and members of their household do not use watercraft.

Issues of Concern

From a list of 16 concerns, residents affiliated with Fence Lake were asked to identify three concerns about the lake that they believe are of most concern. For those who responded, Table 13-28 shows the three issues of greatest concern include *aquatic invasive species* (44%), *loss of fish habitat* (24%), and *degradation of water quality* (29%). The three issues of least concern include *noise* (3%), *excessive aquatic plant growth* (7%), and *loss of shoreline & light pollution* (9%). The items on the list are of *no concern* to 15% of the respondents.

Interest in Attending Workshops

Residents were asked if they have an interest to attend workshops on a variety of topics related to the lakes and habitats. Table 13-29 shows the largest percentages of responses for all three response groups include *identifying AIS* and *identifying aquatic plants*.

Residents were asked how often, if at all, they check the town's website to get information about the Town Lakes Committee, such as newsletters, meeting agendas, and information on AIS. Table 13-30 shows that of 116 respondents for Fence Lake, 1% indicate *often*, 7% *sometimes*, 32% *rarely*, and 60% *never*.

Table 13-28. Fence Lake - Lake Issues of Most Concern

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	123 Respondents	576 Respondents	1074 Respondents
Algae bloom	18%	17%	16%
Light pollution	9%	10%	8%
Shoreline runoff	14%	14%	12%
Aquatic invasive species	44%	42%	35%
Loss of fish habitat	24%	25%	22%
Water quality degradation	29%	27%	23%
Boat traffic	15%	16%	15%
Loss of shoreline	9%	13%	10%
Septic discharge	20%	18%	15%

Degradation of native aquatic plants	12%	11%	9%
Loss of wildlife habitat	13%	10%	10%
Excessive aquatic plant growth	7%	12%	10%
Noise pollution	3%	6%	6%
Shoreline development	10%	13%	11%
Excessive fishing	13%	12%	10%
Shoreline erosion	14%	18%	10%
Not concerned about any of these	15%	17%	19%

Table 13-29. Fence Lake - Interest in Attending Workshops

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	123 Respondents	576 Respondents	1074 Respondents
Preventing AIS	11%	13%	11%
Starting a lake association	13%	5%	14%
Controlling Purple Loosestrife	12%	17%	14%
Identifying AIS	43%	42%	38%
Lake Stewardship	20%	13%	11%
Identifying aquatic plants	38%	38%	36%
Limnology	20%	22%	20%
Other	5%	5%	4%
No interest	27%	28%	28%

Table 13-30. Fence Lake - Accessing the Town’s Website

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	116 Respondents	541 Respondents	938 Respondents
Never	60%	60%	63%
Rarely	32%	26%	23%
Sometimes	7%	14%	12%
Often	1%	1%	1%

Accessing Information

Residents were asked where they would most likely go to get information about environmental issues.

Table 13-31 shows that residents are most likely to seek information from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Tribal Natural Resources Department.

Table 13-31. Fence Lake - Accessing Sources of Information for AIS

	Fence Lake	Bear River Lakes	All Lakes
	123 Respondents	576 Respondents	1074 Respondents
Tribal Natural Resources Department	33%	37%	31%
Town Lakes Committee	20%	21%	18%
Wisconsin DNR	74%	61%	59%
LdF Town Hall	23%	19%	19%
Tribal Main Office	6%	7%	5%
Other	10%	9%	9%

Fence Lake Association³⁰

Volunteer organizations in Wisconsin have long played an important role in protecting the lakes from declining water quality and other human impacts. To address such issues, residents on Lake Geneva established the first lake association in Wisconsin 1898.

Though Fence Lake has a long history of volunteerism, the current Fence Lake Association is the most recent organization established to serve the lake. The association's first meeting was an *information get-together* held at a resident's home on July 13, 2013. Two weeks later, July 27, the association's first formal meeting was held at the Light House where officers were appointed and a decision was made to form a non-profit corporation.

Since then, the organization designed and distributed a flier, and Board members canvassed the lake shore homes explaining the need for the association while collecting dues and directory information.

The Fence Lake Association is represented on the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee.

Setting the Pace & Fence Lake

In summary, Fence Lake has a very healthy ecosystem with many strong qualities. The primary challenge is ensure these attributes do not degrade from their current conditions. At the same time, there is room for improvement, particularly with respect to improving the lake's habitat, monitoring the presence of mercury in fish tissue, and guarding against the arrival of aquatic invasive species.

The following tables, Setting the Pace, constitute a long-term action plan to maintain or improve the overall health of Fence Lake. The plan includes six goals with supporting objectives and activities. The goals include:

- I. Preserve or Improve Current Water Quality.
- II. Prevent Infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species.
- III. Control or Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.
- IV. Broaden Residents' Understanding of Swimmer's Itch.
- V. Reduce User Conflicts.
- VI. Strengthen or Increase Collaborations.

Table 13-32. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal I - Preserve or Improve Current Lake Water Quality					
Objective A - Provide residents with opportunities to learn about the current lake water quality and how they can help preserve or improve it.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Attend CLMN Workshops	Tribe, TLC, Lake Assoc.	# Attendees	Availability of workshops & support of Tribe, Town, Lake Associations	\$50 per attendee	Annual
2. Attend CBCW Workshops	Tribe, TLC, Lake Assoc.	# Attendees	Availability of workshops & support of Tribe, Town, Lake Associations	\$50 per attendee	Annual
3. Teach at After-School Program	Tribe/TLC	Pre & Post Survey	Support of Tribe & School, availability of volunteers	\$35 per volunteer	Annual Spring Term
4. Host Limnology/Ecology Workshops	Tribe/TLC	# Attendees, workshop evaluation	Availability of presenters, # registrants	\$100 per attendee	Every 2-3 years
5. Host Lake Steward Workshops	TLC/Tribe	# Attendees, workshop evaluation	Availability of presenters, # registrants, support of partnering organizations	\$300 per registrant (based on 50 registrants)	Every 3-4 years
6. Host Landscaping/Shoreline Habitat Workshops	Tribe/TLC	# Attendees, workshop evaluation	Availability of presenters, # registrants, support of Tribe, Town	\$100 per attendee	Every 2-3 years
7. Update Webpages	Tribe, TLC, Lake Assoc.	# Clicks	Support of Tribe, Town, Lake Associations	Variable	Ongoing
8. Host Lakes Fest	Tribe	# of Attendees	Support of Tribe, presenters, attendees	\$7,000 per Event	Annual

Table 13-33. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal I - Preserve or Improve Current Lake Water Quality					
Objective B - Continue monitoring lake water quality.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Improve or establish standards for assessing aesthetics	Tribe/WDNR	Implementation of improved/new standards Report Card: Aesthetics	Support of Tribe & WDNR	\$30,000 to establish	Ongoing once established
2. Collect data on lake water levels, temperature, chemistry, clarity, nutrients	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	Data Reports Report Card: Biology, Chemistry, Nutrients	Support of Tribe, WDNR, Volunteers	\$20,000	Annual
3. Expand & implement schedule of Point Intercept Surveys	Tribe	WDNR Verification Report Card: Biology, Habitat	Support of Tribe, WDNR	\$7,000 average per lake	Ongoing
4. Conduct shoreline sweeps	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	CLMN Data Sheets Report Card: Biology, Habitat, Aesthetics	Support of Tribe, TLC, Volunteers	\$12 per hour, .58 per mile	Annual
5. Conduct individual property sweeps	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	CLMN Data Sheets Report Card: Biology, Habitat, Aesthetics	Support of Tribe, TLC, Property Owners	\$48 per property	12 per season
6. Collect data on bio-accumulative pollutants (fish tissue)	Tribe	Database Report Card: Tissue	Support of Tribe	\$20,000	Annual
7. Collect & analyze data on stream flow	Tribe/USGS	Report Card: Flow	Support of Tribe & USGS	\$16,000	Annual
8. Expand participation in CLMN	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc.	CLMN Data Sheets Biology, Chemistry, Nutrients	Support of TLC, Lake Associations	\$12 per hour, .58 per mile	Ongoing
9. Collect & analyze data on weather/climate	Tribe/ Volunteers	List of sources	Support of Tribe	\$10,000	Annual
10. Expand taking core samples from the lakes	Tribe	Reports of data Report Card: Biology, Habitat	Support of Tribe	\$50,000-\$100,000 for all lakes	One time lake
11. Identify impact of the operation of motor vehicles and motorboats on the lakes	Tribe	Report of study Report Card: Aesthetics	Support of Tribe	\$10,000-50,000 per study	To be determined
12. Identify impact of forestry clear-cutting practices on the lakes	Tribe	Report of Study Report Card: Habitat, Nutrients	Support of Tribe	\$20,000-70,000	To be determined
13. Consider monitoring species of concern, like frogs, bats, etc.	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	Document discussions	Support of Tribe, TLC, Lake Associations	\$12 per hour, .58 per mile	To be determined
14. Consider maintaining/expanding propagation of wild rice	Tribe	To be determined	Support of Tribe Availability of resources	To be determined	To be determined
15. Consider monitoring for spiny waterflea	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	To be determined	Support of Tribe, TLC, Lake Associations	To be determined	To be determined

Table 13-34. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal I - Preserve or Improve Current Lake Water Quality					
Objective C - Minimize impact from development.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Identify shoreline restoration needs	Tribe	Report of Study Report Card: Habitat, Nutrients	Funding	\$10,000 for five lakes	Ongoing
2. Establish shoreline restoration demonstration project	Tribe	Finished project Report Card: Habitat	Funding, Available shoreline	\$10,000 per 100 feet of shoreline	2015
3. Restore selected shorelines	Tribe	Finished projects Report Card: Habitat	Land ownership, jurisdictions	\$10,000 per 100 feet of shoreline	2015, ongoing
4. Encourage lake home shoreline restorations	Vilas Co/Tribe	Finished projects Report Card: Habitat	Support of Tribe, County, & Landowners	\$10,000 per 100 feet of shoreline	Ongoing
5. Install erosion controls bank stabilization	Tribe/Vilas Co	Finished projects Report Card: Habitat	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$3,000 per erosion site	Ongoing
6. Review & suggest best management practices on all land-disturbing projects	Tribe	Report of study Report Card: Habitat	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$10,000-\$50,000	Annual
7. Review & comment on all storm water projects	Tribe	Reports/documents Report Card: Habitat, Nutrients, Bacteria	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$10,000-\$50,000	Annual
8. Review & comment on all National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permits	Tribe	Reports/documents Report Card: Habitat, Nutrients, Bacteria	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$10,000-\$50,000	Annual
9. Determine best alternative for Waste Water Treatment Plant	Tribe	Report of Study Report Card: Habitat, Nutrients, Bacteria	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$200,000 per review	Ongoing
11. Work with Planning and Land Department for future low-impact development initiatives	Tribe	Report Report Card: Habitat, Nutrients, Chemistry	Support of Tribe	Variable	To be determined
12. Review & update water quality standards and shoreline codes	Tribe	Revised documents Report Card: All categories	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$50,000 per review	Triennial
13. Enforce inspection schedule for all development initiatives	Tribe	Completion reports Report Card: All categories	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$20,000	Annual
14. Conducting septic inspections	Tribe/Vilas Co	Report of inspections Report Card: Nutrients Bacteria	Support of Tribe, Vilas County	\$150 per unit	Ongoing
15. Evaluating Dam Permit Applications	Tribe, WDNR, Army Corps of Engineers	# permits evaluated Report card: habitat, lake levels	Jurisdiction, Federal funding	Variable	Ongoing
16. Review & comment on all potential rules or permits regulating mercury emissions	Tribe	Reports/documents Report Card: Fish Tissue	Support of Tribe, Federal funding	\$10,000-\$50,000	Annual

Table 13-35. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal II - Prevent Infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species					
Objective A - Provide the public with opportunities to learn about Aquatic Invasive Species and how to prevent their introduction.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Coordinate TLC/Tribal planning with lake associations' planning	TLC/Tribe Lake Assoc	Partner feedback	Support of TLC, Tribe & lake associations	Volunteers @ \$12/hour & .58/mile	Annual
2. Encourage volunteers to attend training sessions provided by the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	Identify number of attendees	Availability of workshops, volunteers, & help from lake associations	\$50 per attendee	Annual
3. Periodically offer workshops locally on how to identify and prevent AIS	TLC	Agendas, participant evaluations	Availability of presenters and registrants, & help from lake associations	\$35 per attendee	Annual
4. Encourage volunteers to attend training sessions provided by the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)	TLC/Tribe	Identify number of attendees	Availability of workshops, volunteers, & help from lake associations	\$50 per attendee	Annual
5. Disseminate information via media, including Town, Tribal, and Lake Association websites	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	Copies of releases	Availability of writer(s)	Variable	Ongoing
6. Highlight AIS and prevention in documents produced locally, such as newsletters, brochures	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	Copies of documents	Availability of writers	Volunteers @ \$12/hour & .58/mile	Ongoing
7. Highlight AIS prevention at landings through signage & distribution of educational materials	TLC/Tribe Lake Assoc	Periodic review of signage	Availability of new signage & WDNR education materials	Cost of signage, volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile, WDNR materials	Ongoing
8. Identify local Key Communicators who will speak about AIS at community events	TLC/Tribe	List of individuals	Availability of communicators	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
9. Ask resorts & select businesses to distribute AIS information	TLC/Lake Associations	List of accepting business	Availability of materials, approval of businesses	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile, WDNR materials	Annual
10. Continue hosting the Lake Steward Workshop	TLC/Tribe	Participant evaluation	Availability of presenters, # registrants, support of partnering organizations	\$300/registrant (based on 50 registrants)	Every 3-4 years

Table 13-36. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal II - Prevent Infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species					
Objective B - Provide the public with opportunities to actively and purposefully look for Aquatic Invasive Species.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Coordinate TLC/Tribal planning with lake associations' planning	TLC/Tribe Lake Assoc	Partner feedback	Support of TLC, Tribe & lake associations	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
2. Organize and support whole-lake shoreline sweeps	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	# sweeps, participant feedback Report Card: Biology	Support of TLC, Tribe & Lake Associations	\$12/hour, .58/mile, supplies @ \$300/lake	Annual
3. Support establishing system of personal property sweeps	TLC/Lake Assoc	# properties, participant feedback Report Card: Biology	Support of TLC & Lake Associations	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
4. Inspect watercraft at landings	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	# inspectors, # hours inspection Report Card: Biology	Support of TLC, Tribe, Lake Associations, Volunteers, WDNR	\$12/hour, .58/mile, supplies @ \$200/landing	Annual
5. Coordinate SCUBA diving/ snorkeling sweeps near landings	TLC/Tribe	Log Report Card: Biology	Support of Tribe & volunteers	\$500/season	Annual
6. Provide convenient drop-off points on each lake for suspected AIS samples	TLC/Lake Assoc	# participants Report Card: Biology	Support of TLC & lake associations	\$100 per lake	Annual
7. Assist Lake Associations with grant applications for hiring watercraft inspectors	TLC	# attendees, workshop evaluation Report Card: Biology	Support of TLC & Lake Associations	\$30 per attendee	Annual

Table 13-37. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal III - Control or Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species					
Objective A - Provide the public with opportunities to learn about local infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species and how they can help control or reduce their spread.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Coordinate TLC/Tribal planning with lake associations' planning	TLC/Tribe Lake Assoc	Lake association feedback	Support of TLC & lake associations	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
2. Encourage volunteers to attend training sessions provided by the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	# of attendees	Availability of workshops, volunteers, & help from lake associations	\$50 per attendee	Annual
3. Offer TLC workshops on how to identify and control or reduce AIS	TLC	Agendas, participant evaluations	Availability of presenters and registrants, & help from lake associations	\$30 per attendee	Annual
4. Encourage volunteers to attend training sessions provided by the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	# of attendees	Availability of workshops, volunteers, & help from lake associations	\$50 per attendee	Annual
5. Disseminate information via media, including Town, Tribal, and Lake Association websites	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	Copies of releases	Availability of writer(s)	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Ongoing
6. Highlight AIS and prevention in documents produced locally, such as newsletters, brochures	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	Copies of documents	Availability of writers	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile, printing	Ongoing
7. Highlight AIS control at landings through signage & distribution of educational materials	TLC/Tribe Lake Assoc	Periodic review of signage	Availability of new signage	Cost of signage, volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile, WDNR materials	Annual
8. Identify local Key Communicators who will speak about AIS at community events	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	List of individuals	Availability of communicators	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
9. Ask resorts & select businesses to distribute AIS information	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	List of accepting businesses	Availability of materials & approval of businesses	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
10. Continue hosting the Lake Steward Workshop	TLC/Tribe	Participant evaluation	Availability of presenters, # registrants, support of partnering organizations	\$300 per registrant (based on 50 registrants)	Triennial

Table 13-38. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal III - Control or Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species					
Objective B - Reduce the scope of existing infestations of purple loosestrife and minimize the spread of the infestations to new locations.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Establish Action Team & Action Plan	TLC	Written Plan	Support of TLC/Tribe/Town	\$12/hour. .58/mile	Annual
2. Encourage lake association participation	TLC/Lake Assoc	# Lake Associations involved	Support of Lake Associations	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
3. Continue inter-agency relationships on Purple Loosestrife (Tribe, WDNR, Public School)	TLC/Lake Assoc	Survey agencies	Support of agencies	Variable	Annual
4. Raise & distribute beetles	TLC/Lake Assoc	150 plants & 200,000 beetles Report Card: Biology, Habitat	Support from Tribe, WDNR, school, & availability of volunteers, materials, roots & seed beetles	\$3,000-5,000	Annual
5. Host or conduct workshops on Purple Loosestrife	TLC/Lake Assoc	Agendas, participant evaluations	Support of volunteers & other agencies	\$30/attendee	Annual
6. Provide residents with information on bio-control	TLC/Lake Assoc	Documents provided	Support of TLC/Tribe/Lake Associations	\$1000 printing/supplies	Annual
7. Consider restoring tall native wetland plants to infested areas	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	Document discussions	Support of TLC/Tribe/Lake Associations, others	To be determined	To be determined

Table 13-39. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal III - Control or Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species					
Objective C - Continue monitoring infestations of Rainbow Smelt and Rusty Crayfish.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Publicize history of previous actions to monitor/control infestations	Tribe	Documents	Tribal support	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Ongoing
2. Conduct workshop on the fishery, including monitoring smelt and crayfish	Tribe/TLC	Agenda, participant evaluations	Tribal Support	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Ongoing
3. Continue monitoring Rainbow Smelt & Rusty Crayfish	Tribe/ Volunteers	Documents Report Card: Biology	Tribal Support, TLC Support	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Ongoing

Table 13-40. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal IV - Broaden Residents' Understanding of Swimmer's Itch					
Objective A - Provide residents with a variety of educational experiences and materials on Swimmer's Itch, including alternatives treating it or reducing the probability of contracting it.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Establish Action Plan	Bear River Team	Written Plan	Support of Tribe, Town, Availability of volunteers	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
2. Review current research and literature	Bear River Team	List of items reviewed	Availability of research & literature	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Ongoing
3. Contact appropriate professionals and authorities about Swimmers' Itch	Bear River Team	List of individuals/organizations	Availability of professionals	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Ongoing
4. Host community-wide workshops	Bear River Team	Agenda & evaluation of participants	# registrants, availability of presenters	\$30/attendee	Annual
5. Distribute information in newsletters, bulletins, and PSAs	Bear River Team	Copies of items distributed	Support of partnering agencies	\$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
6. Identify alternatives for treating it or reducing the probability of contracting it	Bear River Team	Summative report	Availability of alternatives	\$12/hour, .58/mile	To be determined
7. Conduct or participate in a research study of Swimmer's Itch	Bear River Team	Final research report	Support of partnering agencies	\$150,000	To be determined

Table 13-41. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal V - Reduce User Conflicts					
Objective A - Provide the public with opportunities to learn about user conflicts.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Determine extent of user conflicts	Tribe	Survey	Tribe/TLC/Funding	To be determined	Triennial
2. Develop & distribute education materials on minimizing user conflicts	Tribe, WDNR	Availability of materials, distribution list	Support of Tribe, WDNR, availability of resources	To be determined	Ongoing
3. Host workshop on fishery (size limits, stocking, etc.)	Tribe	# attendees, workshop evaluation	# registrants, support of Tribe, availability of resources	\$100/attendee	Quadrennial
4. Joint review of current enforcement (# wardens, incidents, etc.)	Tribe/Town	Report	Support of Tribe & Town	To be determined	To be determined

Table 13-42. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal VI - Strengthen or Increase Collaborations					
Objective A - Encourage participation in educational experiences related to partnerships and collaborations.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	Timeframe
2. Encourage attendance at Lake Leaders Institute	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	# attendees	Availability of volunteers, resources	\$800/attendee	Biennial
3. Encourage attendance at Wisconsin Lakes Conference	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	# attendees	Availability of volunteers, resources	\$800/attendee	Annual
4. Encourage attendance at Vilas County Lakes Association	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	# attendees	Availability of volunteers, resources	\$100/attendee	Annual
5. Encourage attendance at Lakes Fest	Tribe/TLC/ Lake Assoc	# attendees	Support of partnering agencies	\$7,000/event	Annual
6. Provide workshop or meeting for lake associations on planning	TLC	# attendees, workshop evaluation	Support of TLC, # registrants	\$30/attendee	Annual
7. Provide a workshop for lake associations on preparing grant applications	TLC	# attendees, workshop evaluation	Availability of grants, support of TLC, # registrants	\$30/attendee	Annual

Table 13-43. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal VI - Strengthen or Increase Collaborations					
Objective B - Provide a variety of ways to share information about watershed and lake planning.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	Timeframe
1. Host a Lake Association Gathering	TLC/Tribe	# attendees, program evaluation	Support of Tribe/TLC/ Lake Associations	\$50/attendee	Annual
2. Establish an ongoing exchange of newsletters, brochures, etc. between lake associations, the Tribe, and the TLC	TLC	Participant evaluation	Support of partnering agencies	\$100	Annual
3. Disseminate information to lake associations about the Wisconsin Lakes Association, Annual Convention, Leadership Program, & other local, County and State offerings	TLC	Lake association feedback	Support of TLC and lake associations, availability of materials	Volunteers @ \$12/hour, .58/mile	Annual
4. Present information at Local, County, State, & National conferences and meetings	Tribe/TLC	Per host agency	Support of Tribe, Town, availability of presenters	Variable	Per host agency
5. Consider issuing joint TLC/Tribe/Lake Association newsletter	TLC/Tribe/ Lake Assoc	Newsletter distribution	Support of partnering agencies, availability of author	\$7,000/issue	Annual

Table 13-44. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake

Goal VI - Strengthen or Increase Collaborations					
Objective C - Focus on ways to reach out to individuals and organizations.					
Potential Activities	Facilitator(s)	Evaluation	Limitations		Timeframe
			Limitations	Cost Estimates	
1. Establish system for contacting new residents	TLC	# residents contacted	Support of TLC	\$100/visit	Ongoing
2. Encourage the WDNR to establish a protocol for writing watershed and lake management plans.	Bear River Action Team	Development of protocol	Support of WDNR	TBD	To be determined
3. Revise the current <i>Rapid Response Plan</i>	Tribe/TLC	Availability of revised plan	Tribal support	\$1,000-\$5,000	Quinquennial
4. Consider establishing a watershed plan for the other watersheds in Lac du Flambeau	Tribe/TLC	Additional watershed plans	Positive evaluation of Bear River Watershed plan, support of Tribe & TLC, availability of volunteers and resources	\$50,000/watershed	To be determined
5. Evaluate establishing the position of Invasive Species Coordinator for Lac du Flambeau	Tribe/TLC	Report	Support of Tribe, Town, & Lake Associations	TBD	To be determined
6. Develop an indigenous arts and sciences institute	Tribe/Universities	# Participants	Support of Tribe and Universities	\$4,000,000	To be determined

Notes for Section 13

1. *GIDAKIIMINAAN (Our Earth): An Anishinaabe Atlas of the 1836, 1837, and 1842 Treaty Ceded Territories* (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, 2007) 44.
2. Elizabeth M. Tornes, ed., *Memories of Lac du Flambeau Elders* (The Board of Regents for the University of Wisconsin System, 2004) 102.
3. Ibid.
4. On November 19, 2010, the "The Lakeland Times," published an interesting article by John Bates, *Historical methods of hunting deer - drives*, in which Ernie St. Germain, a Ojibwe elder, is quoted at length about using fences to hunt deer in Lac du Flambeau. Also, *The Lakeland Times Centennial*, (Lakeland Times, 1988) provides additional insight about using fences to hunt deer when it describes a fence in the Minocqua area. *The fence was built primarily of Norway pine, 5-7 inches in diameter. Instead of driving posts, the poles were laid in a trough formed by crosses, which were secured by stakes....About every five or six miles, in open country or swamp, the Indians had built a corral or pocket. The pockets measure 20x20 feet...the Indians...chased the deer into the pockets, where their companions killed the deer.*
5. James K. Bokern, *History and the Primary Canoe Routes of the Six Bands of Chippewa from the Lac du Flambeau District* (Unpublished Masters Thesis, 1987) Chapter IX. Online at: <http://www.marshfield.k12.wi.us/socsci/discovery/bokern/default.htm>
6. Michael J. Goc, *Reflections of Lac du Flambeau: An Illustrated History of Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, 1745-1995* (New Past Press Inc., 1995) 87.
7. Goc, 93.
8. USGS Geographic Names Information System. <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/>.
9. Goc, 152.
10. Email statement provided by Kathryn M. Angst, Senior Consumer Representative, Consumer Relationship Center, SC Johnson, A Family Company. August 22, 2014.
11. Information from two Lac du Flambeau Chamber of Commerce maps from the 1960s: *Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation and Lac du Flambeau Lake Region*.
12. *Waterway May Be Completed Before Winter* (Back Through the Times - Lakeland Times, 1931) 14.
13. Goc, 151.
14. The survey data presented throughout the section is from the *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012. See Appendix.
15. Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) , Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Aquatic Plant habitat Point Intercept Survey of Lakes for Plants 2010.
16. Results of the WISCALM Botanist Review Panel for Aquatic Macrophyte Impairment.
17. Quality Assurance Protection Plan, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, General Chemistry Assessment of Waters within the Lac du Flambeau Reservation 2012 (QAPP) for General Chemistry.
18. Tribal Water Quality Standards.
19. Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) , Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Aquatic Plant habitat Point Intercept Survey of Lakes for Plants 2010.
20. National Lakes Assessment: Technical Appendix, Data Analysis Approach; Lakes, Ponds, and Reservoirs January 2010, 10-12.
21. Wisconsin 2012 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (WIS CLAM) for Clean Water Act Section 305(b), 314, and 303(d) Integrated Reporting, April 2012 http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/documents/FINAL_2012_WisCALM_04-02-12.pdf.
22. Quality Assurance Protection Plan, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, (QAPP) Shoreland Development Habitat 2008.
23. National Lakes Assessment: Technical Appendix, Data Analysis Approach; Lakes, Ponds, and Reservoirs January 2010, 10-12.
24. Quality Assurance Protection Plan, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, (QAPP) for Beach Monitoring 2008.
25. Tribal Water Quality Standards.
26. Ibid.
27. Quality Assurance Protection Plan, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, General Chemistry Assessment of Waters within the Lac du Flambeau Reservation 2012 (QAPP) for General Chemistry.
28. National Lake Survey Report.
29. http://www.manresa-sj.org/stamps/1_Secchi.htm.
30. Information in the first paragraph came from *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations*, DNR Publication PUB-FH-821-2006. Information about the Fence Lake Association was provided by founding member and current Secretary, Charlene De Wald, 2014. One predecessor to the current Fence Lake Association, the Fence Lake Area Improvement Association, was established at least as early as 1955, as documented by a current resident of Fence Lake, Scott Harrod, whose father was a member of the association.

Figure Notes for Section 13

Figure 13-1. Map of Lakes. Provided by Tribal Natural Resources Department.

Table Notes for Section 13

Table 13-3. Perceived vs Actual Presence of AIS. *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey Data from Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #26. See Appendix.

Table 13-4. Perceived to be Threatened by AIS. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #27. See Appendix.

- Table 13-5. Concern about AIS Getting into the Lake. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #29. See Appendix.
- Table 13-6. Time Spent Checking for AIS During Open Water Season. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #28. See Appendix.
- Table 13-9. Whether Aquatic Plants Impede Enjoyment of the Lake. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #15. See Appendix.
- Table 13-10. Removal of Aquatic Plants from the Lake. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #18. See Appendix.
- Table 13-11. Removal of Fallen Trees from the Lake. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #19. See Appendix.
- Table 13-12. Whether Aquatic Plant Control is Needed. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #16. See Appendix.
- Table 13-13. Preferences for Treating/removing Aquatic Invasive Plants. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #30. See Appendix.
- Table 13-14. Current Shoreline Landscaping vs Ideal Shoreline Landscaping. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #20-21. See Appendix.
- Table 13-15. Interest in Learning About Landscape Design. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #22. See Appendix.
- Table 13-17. Perception of Environmental Change. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #32. See Appendix.
- Table 13-18. Septic Tank Inspections. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #8. See Appendix.
- Table 13-19. Lake Water Color North Bay. Data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network database. <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>.
- Table 13-20. Lake Water Color South Bay. Data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network database. <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>.
- Table 13-21. Perception of Current Lake Water Quality. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #23. See Appendix.
- Table 13-22. Perception of Change in Lake Water Quality. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #24. See Appendix.
- Table 13-23. Number of Fish Stocked 2003-2012. Data provided by the Tribal Natural Resources Department.
- Table 13-24. Perception of Current Quality of Fishing. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #11. See Appendix.
- Table 13-25. Perception of Change of Fishing Quality. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #12. See Appendix.
- Table 13-26. Number of Observations of Lake Water Levels North Bay. Data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network database. <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>.
- Table 13-27. Number of Observations of Lake Water Levels South Bay, Data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network database. <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>.
- Table 13-28. Lake Issues of Most Concern. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #31. See Appendix.
- Table 13-29. Interest in Attending Workshops. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #33. See Appendix.
- Table 13-30. Accessing Town Website. Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #34. See Appendix.
- Table 13-31. Accessing Sources of Information for AIS Data from *Bear River Watershed Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey, Lake-by-lake Comparisons*, June 2012, Question #35. See Appendix.

Figures

- Figure 13-1. Map of Lakes.....13-2
- Figure 13-2. Lake Food Pyramid 13-6
- Figure 13-3. Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature for Fence Lake 13-7
- Figure 13-4. Fence Lake Phosphorus Concentrations..... 13-8
- Figure 13-5. Chlorophyll a Concentrations in Fence Lake 13-8
- Figure 13-6. Fence Lake TSI for Secchi, Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll a 13-9
- Figure 13-7. Primary Fence Lake Phosphorus Sources..... 13-9
- Figure 13-8. Fence Lake Land Uses (Red – Developed; Blue – Open Water; Light Green – Wetland; Dark Green – Forest) 13-9
- Figure 13-9. Substrate Map of Fence Lake 13-10
- Figure 13-10. Fence Lake 2011 Aquatic Point Intercept Survey..... 13-12

Figure 13-11. Secchi Depths for Fence Lake 1991–2009 13-19

Figure 13-12. Mercury Concentrations in Fish Tissue vs Size in Inches..... 13-21

Figure 13-13. Lake Water Level Fluctuations During 2012-2014 13-22

Table 13-26. Fence Lake North Bay - Number of Observations of Lake Water Levels 13-22

Table 13-27. Fence Lake South Bay - Number of Observations of Lake Water Levels 13-23

Table 13-28. Fence Lake - Lake Issues of Most Concern 13-23

Table 13-29. Fence Lake - Interest in Attending Workshops 13-24

Table 13-30. Fence Lake - Accessing the Town's Website 13-24

Table 13-31. Fence Lake - Accessing Sources of Information for AIS 13-24

Table 13-32. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-26

Table 13-33. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-27

Table 13-34. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-28

Table 13-35. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-29

Table 13-36. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-30

Table 13-37. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-31

Table 13-38. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-32

Table 13-39. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-32

Table 13-40. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-33

Table 13-41. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-33

Table 13-42. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-34

Table 13-43. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-34

Table 13-44. Setting the Pace - Fence Lake 13-35

Tables

Table 13-1. Basic Data for Fence Lake 13-2

Table 13-2. Fence Lake Health Report 13-4

Table 13-3. Fence Lake - Perceived vs Actual Presence of AIS..... 13-6

Table 13-4. Fence Lake - Perceived to be Threatened by Aquatic Invasive Species 13-6

Table 13-5. Fence Lake - Concern about AIS Getting into the Lake 13-7

Table 13-6. Fence Lake - Time Spent Checking for AIS During Open Water Season 13-7

Table 13-7. 2011 Aquatic Plant Community Statistics, Fence Lake, Vilas County, WI 13-11

Table 13-8. 2011 Floristic Quality Index for Fence Lake in Vilas County, WI..... 13-13

Table 13-9. Fence Lake - Whether Aquatic Plants Impede Enjoyment of the Lake 13-14

Table 13-10. Fence Lake - Removal of Aquatic Plants from the Lake 13-14

Table 13-11. Fence Lake - Removal of Fallen Trees from the Lake 13-14

Table 13-12. Fence Lake - Whether Aquatic Plant Control is Needed..... 13-15

Table 13-13. Fence Lake - Preferences for Treating/Removing Aquatic Invasive Plants..... 13-15

Table 13-14. Fence Lake - Current Shoreline Landscaping vs Ideal Shoreline Landscaping 13-16

Table 13-15. Fence Lake - Interest in Learning About Landscape Design..... 13-16

Table 13-16. Index Values for Environmental Assessment Perceptions 13-16

Table 13-17. Fence Lake - Perceptions of Environmental Change 13-17

Table 13-18. Fence Lake - Septic Tank Inspection 13-18

Table 13-19. Fence Lake North Bay - Lake Water Color..... 13-19

Table 13-20. Fence Lake South Bay - Lake Water Color..... 13-20

Table 13-21. Fence Lake - Perception of Current Water Quality..... 13-20

Table 13-22. Fence Lake - Perception of Change in Water Quality..... 13-20

Table 13-23. Number of Fish Stocked 2003–2012 - Fence Lake (3,340 acres)..... 13-21

Table 13-24. Fence Lake - Perceptions of Current Quality of Fishing..... 13-21

Table 13-25. Fence Lake - Perceptions of Change of Fishing Quality..... 13-22



"A Healthy
Aidan Chap
Lac du Flam