

## Sodus Bay Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

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

A1. The condition of Sodus Bay has been better in the last few years than during the heavy bloom seasons in the late 2000s. Unfortunately, CSLAP sampling was not conducted at that time to compare present data. The lake still exhibits high algae levels and elevated nutrient readings, but shoreline blooms have been very limited since 2013.

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

A2. The HABs testing includes information about the types of algae found in the water samples. These extensive results from multiple sites along the lake shore show low overall algae and low blue green algae levels in the open water, and in nearly all shoreline samples. Very high blue green algae levels were only occasionally reported in ephemeral blooms along the shoreline.

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

A3. Sodus Bay had slightly lower water clarity, but also slightly lower algae and nutrient levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage was probably similar to the plant coverage in many of these lakes.

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

A4. Recreational assessments have improved since the late 1990s, particularly in recent years. Water temperatures have also increased slightly over the same period. Most of the other CSLAP indicators have varied, at times significantly, from year to year.

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

A5. Sodus Bay most likely continues to exhibit a very high susceptibility to shoreline algae blooms, and it is likely that nutrient reduction may be needed to reduce this susceptibility. Continuing studies may help to determine the triggers for these blooms in any given year.

**Q6. Are any actions indicated, based on the trends and this year's results?**

A6. Individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to the water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties will help to improve lake conditions by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since nearby lakes harbor several invasive plants not found in the lake.

<b>Lake Use</b>				
<b>Potable Water</b>				Not applicable
<b>Swimming</b>				Algae blooms
<b>Boating / Fishing</b>				Invasive plants
<b>Aquatic Life</b>				Invasive Animals
<b>Aesthetics</b>				Algae blooms
<b>Fish Consumption</b>				Algae blooms
	<b>PWL</b>	<b>Average Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Primary issue</b>

 Supported  
 Threatened  
 Stressed  
 Impaired  
 Not Known