

June 2015 WQ Program Field and Lab Audit

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township

After completing the second month of water quality sampling for the 2015 season, we have compiled the following information. This information is to be used to help measure the success of the 2015 season, and to determine if any changes need to be made for the duration of this season.

Sites: Twenty-two (**22**) total Water Quality sites are being sampled in 2015, all lakes and ponds. As we did in 2011-2014, nineteen of these sites are sampled twice a month, approximately every (15) days. The lakes being sampled twice a month are as follows: **Big Lake, Long Lake, Lewey Lake, Grand Falls Flowage, Junior Lake, Scraggly Lake, Sysladobsis Lake, Pocumcus Lake, Side Pistol Lake, Upper Chain Lake, Middle Chain Lake, Killman Pond, Shaw Lake, Mill Privilege Lake, Pleasant Lake, East Musquash Lake, West Musquash Lake, West Grand Lake, and Bassett Pond.** Bassett Pond is a small fishless pond that has been sampled to some extent the last two years. When the schedule allows, we will make a trip to the Jackman area to sample the 3 ponds there, I hope to do this twice in 2015.

Field Audit 100%: (38/38) We were able to sample all of the lakes and ponds in June this year. The weather is finally starting to cooperate. There was a large rain event on the night of 6/12/15 that likely had a noticeable effect of water quality readings. Air temperatures seem to be lower on average so far this summer, water temperatures seem to be warming slower this year compared to past seasons.

Sampling equipment: The Pro-DO that was put into service starting July 2011 continues to be a reliable piece of equipment. The Conductivity meter was replaced in 2014 and is working well. Our pH probe and meter has been put back into service on June 11 and seems to be doing well, passing all QA/QC tests.

Maine's VLMP director Scott Williams planned to be up June 23rd to certify us and our DO meter to meet their QC needs, due to an injury has had to reschedule for some time in August. Mark Richter is our field assistant.

Lab Audit 99%: (151/152) All samples have been processed and/or delivered on time this month that were collected, minus one leaky TP bottle that was discarded. **It is very important that the TP bottles are tightened significantly when collected as the cap will loosen up once it cools off in the cooler/fridge. These bottles are tightened yet again when they are packed to be shipped to the lab.** We process samples for 4 parameters in the lab: Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a, True Color, and Alkalinity. TP is collected and mailed out to the Health and Environmental Testing Lab in Augusta (HETL) every two weeks. Chl-a is filtered and frozen here at the office by our field assistant Mark Richter and then mailed out with the TP samples to HETL. The data from May has arrived from the lab.

Alkalinity is titrated in the office by Joe Musante and has had no problems to report. True Color is being done in the office also by Joe Musante using our DR2700 Spectrophotometer.