

Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation/Weeds Management Program

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2000 Harvesting Season

The 2000 harvesting season was not your average harvesting season. Yes, the number of loads was about average for a year (145 loads), but that is about all that was average. We had far less down time from weather related conditions than normal. You ask "How can this be? It seemed to have rained daily." To which I say, "Yes it did, but only on Friday's, Saturday's, and Sunday's". We work the other four days of the week.

We had far less down time from equipment problems. Again you ask, "How can this be? Your equipment is fourteen years old." To which I say, "We have a good preventive maintenance program and a highly skilled maintenance staff, who I would like to thank at this time".

This years algal bloom was about the lightest we have had in many years. You really had to look hard to see any of the bloom. Again you ask, "How can this be? Conditions appeared ideal for an algal bloom." To which I reply, "Could it be the cooler temperatures? Could be. Or could it be the wind and rain? Again it could be. Or could it be the **ZEBRA MUSSEL**"?

We have known for two years that the zebra mussel has been in Honeoye Lake. In August, we found our first mussels clinging to the vegetation. Now I am not talking about a couple! I am talking about dozens to maybe a hundred on one plant. They look like a necklace of one-eighth to one-quarter inch little critters that are filtering out nutrients that would normally be available for the algae to grow. In August, Ontario County's two harvesting operators, Randy DePew (13 years harvesting) and John Miller (8 years harvesting), noticed how the water clarity was starting to improve. Normally this would be the start of the algal bloom season. From the literature that has been submitted to this program, I believe that in 2002 or 2003 the zebra mussel should peak. They should be at the adult stage of a half to three-quarter of inch in length.

This office recommends that anyone who draws water from the lake be aware of the damage zebra mussels can have on foot valves. To those that enjoy swimming, wear protective footwear. There have been many foot injuries on swimmers in Canandaigua Lake because they failed to wear the proper protection.

There is good news-bad news about zebra mussel. Water clarity should

improve immensely, that's the good news. The weeds could grow farther out into the lake because of greater light penetration; this is some of the bad news. The effects on fishing are still out, but with the depletion of zooplankton and phytoplankton, this can't help

Here is that brief description of how we saw Honeoye Lake from a harvesting standpoint.

- From Sandy Bottom south to 5311 County Rd.36: In July there was a large amount of a wire type of grass especially off from Sandy Bottom.
- From 5311 to 5400 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, they were heavier than last year with quite a bit more Milfoil.
- From 5400 to 5750 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, more than previous years with quite a bit of milfoil.
- From 5750 to 5870 County Road 36: Moderate to heavy, slightly more than 1999.
- From 5870 to 5967 County Road 36: Fairly heavy with large amounts of Milfoil, a little more than last year.
- From 5967 to 6200 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, about the same as last year.
- From 6200 to 6270 County Road 36: Heavy weeds, but less than 1999.
- New York State Boat Launch north to 510 East Lake Road: Moderate growth, a little more than 1999.
- From 510 to 445 East Lake Road: Moderate, a little heavier than last year.
- From 445 to 425 East Lake Road: Light to moderate weed beds.
- From 425 to 380 East Lake Road: Light, slightly more than in 1999, with more Milfoil.
- From 380 to 330 East Lake Road: Light, about the same as last year.

- From 330 to 272 East Lake Road: Very light, about the same as last year.
- From 272 to 250 East Lake Road: Moderate with a heavy area in the 263 to 270 range, more than in past few years.
- From 250 to 218 East Lake Road: Light, except for quite a lot of Eel grass in the Trident marina area.
- From 218 to 190 East Lake Road: Very few weeds near the surface.
- From 190 East Lake Road to Sandy Bottom (around the north end of the lake): Very few weeds, about the same as in 1999.

Below is a comparison of statistics for the past three harvesting seasons.

2000 JUNE/SEPTEMBER					
	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
BOAT LAUNCH	52	116.5	2.24	156	1.34
CA. RANCH	81	160.5	1.98	243	1.51
SANDY BTM	12	30	2.5	36	1.2
TOTALS	145 LDS	307 HRS	2.12 HR	435 T	1.42 T/HR

1999 JUNE/SEPTEMBER					
	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
BOAT LAUNCH	74	162.5	2.20HR	222T	1.37T
CA. RANCH	62	140.5	2.27HR	186T	1.32T
SANDY BTM	8	34.5	4.25HR	24T	0.70T
TOTALS	144 LDS	337 HRS	2.34HR	432T	1.28T/HR

1998 JULY/SEPTEMBER					
	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
BOAT LAUNCH	67	139.9	2.08HR	201T	1.44T
CA. RANCH	60	141.9	2.36HR	180T	1.27T
SANDY BTM	8	30	3.79HR	24T	0.80T
TOTALS	135 LDS	311.8 HRS	2.31HR	405T	1.30T/HR