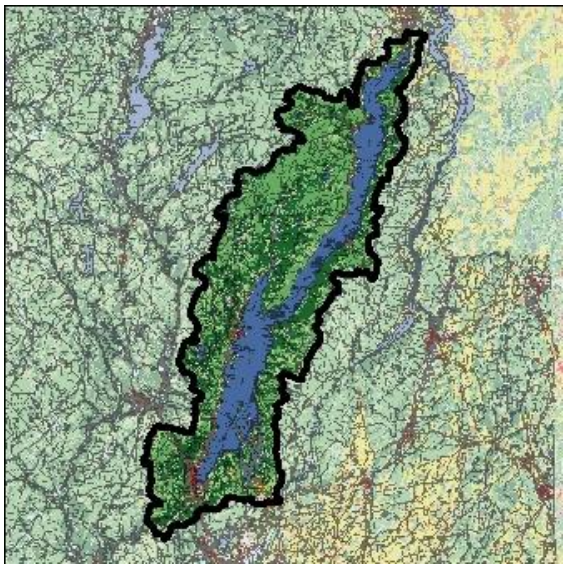
| Lake George | Lake George Association | Town of Hague | Warren County |
|---|---|---|---|

Gull Bay Site



| Lake Characteristics | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Surface area (ac/ha) | 28173 / 11401 |
| | Max depth (ft/m) | 196 / 60 |
| | Mean depth (ft/m) | 48 / 15 |
| | Retention time (years) | 8.70 |
| | Lake Classification | AA-S |
| | Dam Classification | A,B |

| Watershed Characteristics | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Watershed area (ac /ha) | 148827 / 60227 |
| | Watershed / Lake ratio | 5 |
| | Lake & wetlands % | 22.6% |
| | Agricultural % | 0.8% |
| | Forest, shrub, grasses % | 71.7% |
| | Residential | 4.9% |
| | Urban | 0.1% |

| CSLAP Participation | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Years | 2007-2014, 2017-2018 |
| | Volunteers | Peter Leyh and Cindy W. Hughes |

| Trophic state | HABs Susceptibility | Invasive Vulnerability | PWL Assessment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oligotrophic | No reported blooms, Low susceptibility | Invasives present, High Vulnerability | Impaired |

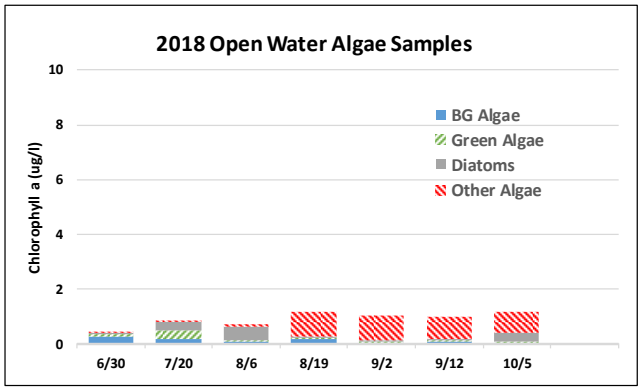
Water quality values for Lake George for the 2018 sampling season. “Seasonal change” shows current year variability. Light red color indicates eutrophic conditions in top table and bloom conditions in bottom table. Summer averages for each of the CSLAP years and long term trend analyses show trends in key water quality indicators over a consistent index period (mid-June thru mid-September).

| Open Water Indicators | 2018 Sampling Results | | | | | | | Seasonal change | Long Term Avg | Long Term Trend? | 18 Diff from Avg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6/30 | 7/20 | 8/6 | 8/19 | 9/2 | 9/12 | 10/5 | | | | |
| Clarity (m) | 9.0 | 11.2 | | 7.4 | 9.3 | 7.6 | 6.9 | | 10.1 | ↓ | ↓ |
| Surface TP (mg/l) | 0.004 | 0.006 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.004 | 0.003 | | 0.005 | no | no |
| Surface TDP (mg/l) | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.003 | | 0.003 | no | |
| Deep TP (mg/l) | 0.007 | 0.005 | 0.006 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0.005 | 0.004 | | 0.007 | no | |
| Deep/Surface TP | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| TN (mg/l) | 0.187 | 0.224 | 0.374 | 0.211 | 0.279 | 0.273 | 0.171 | | 0.313 | no | no |
| TDN (mg/l) | 0.286 | 0.251 | 0.413 | 0.253 | 0.273 | 0.199 | 0.186 | | | | |
| N:P Ratio | 45 | 41 | 91 | 78 | 233 | 63 | 53 | | 36 | | |
| Deep/Surface NH4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Chl.a (ug/l) | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.1 | | 0.5 | no | no |
| pH | 7.4 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 7.7 | | 7.6 | no | no |
| Cond (umho/cm) | 119 | 120 | 120 | 121 | 69 | 138 | 132 | | 120 | no | no |
| Upper Temp (degC) | 26 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 21 | | 23 | no | no |
| Deep Temp (degC) | 22 | 17 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 17 | 19 | | 16 | ↑ | ↑ |
| FP BG Chl.a (ug/l) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | no | no |
| HABs reported? | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | | | | |

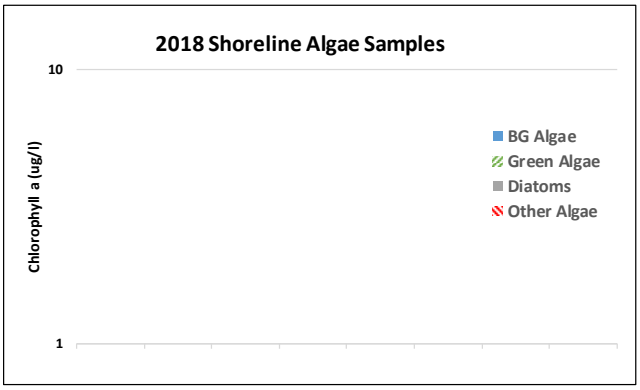
**Shoreline bloom and HABs notifications**

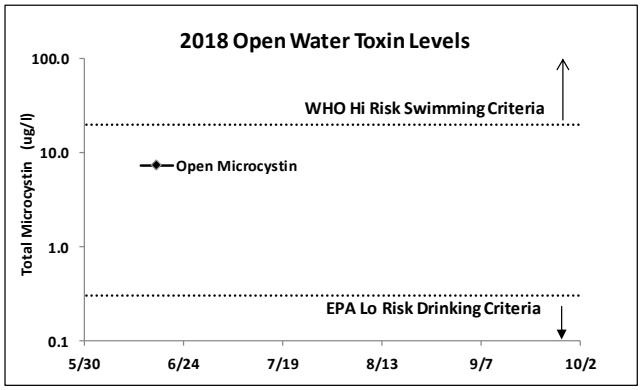
| Date of first listing | Date of last listing | # weeks on the DEC notification list | # Weeks with updates |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **Shoreline HAB Sample Dates 2018** | | | |
| None reported | | | |

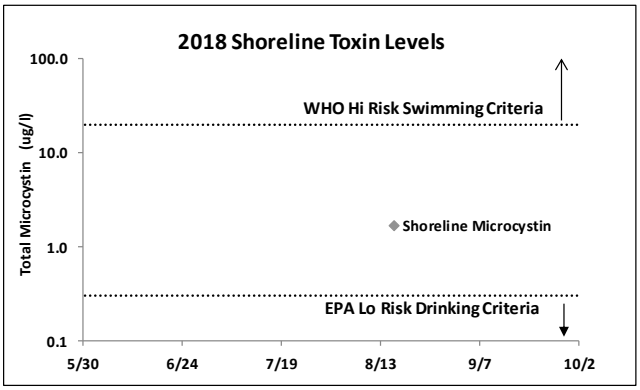
**HABs Status** Open water Algae




Shoreline Algae

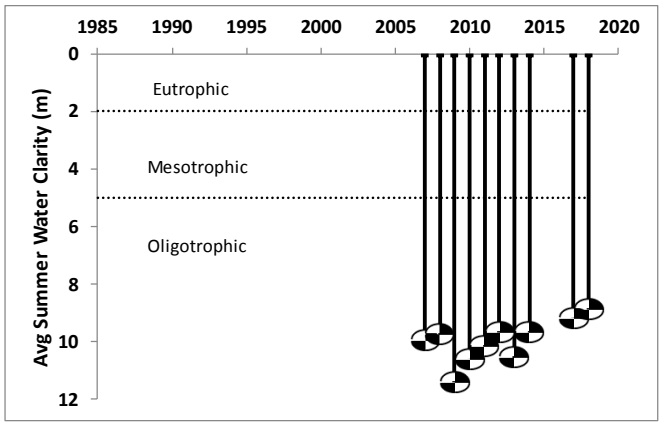


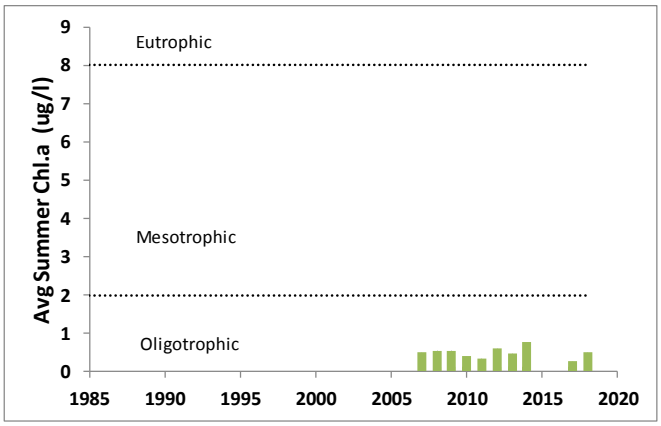



# Lake George (Gull Bay) Long Term Trend Analysis

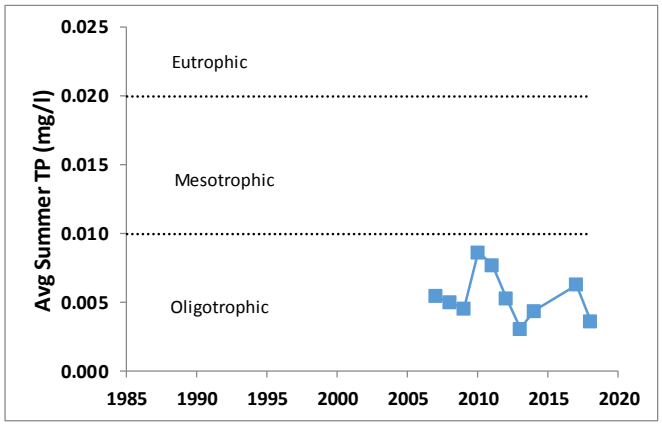
## Clarity



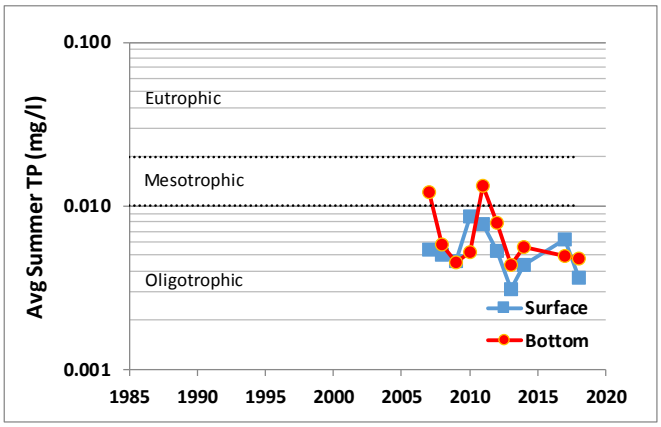

## Chlorophyll *a*



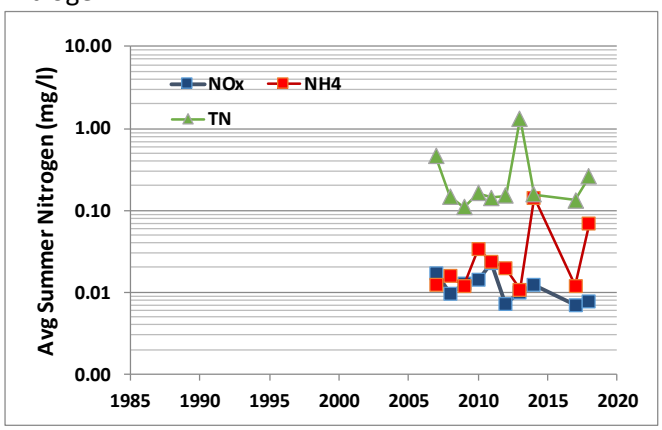

## Surface Phosphorus



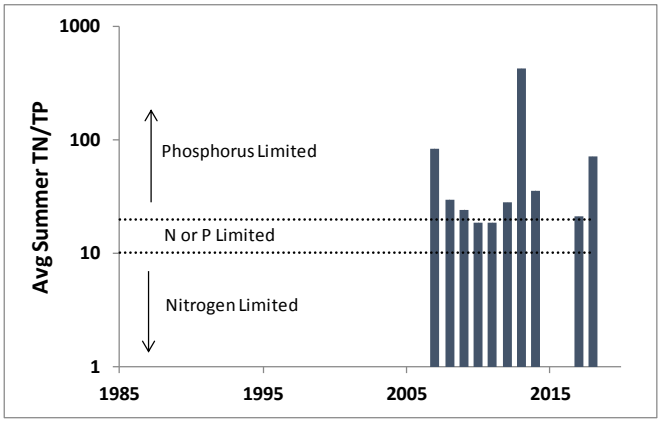

## Surface and Deep Phosphorus



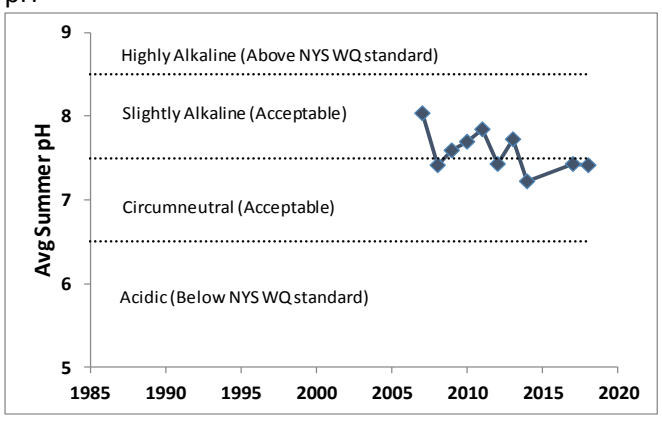

## Nitrogen



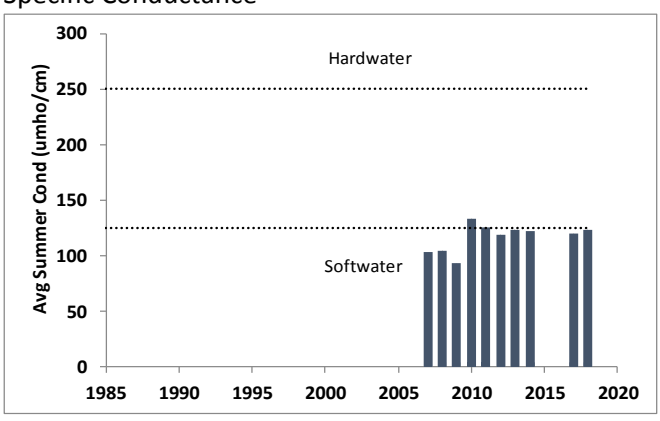

## TN : TP



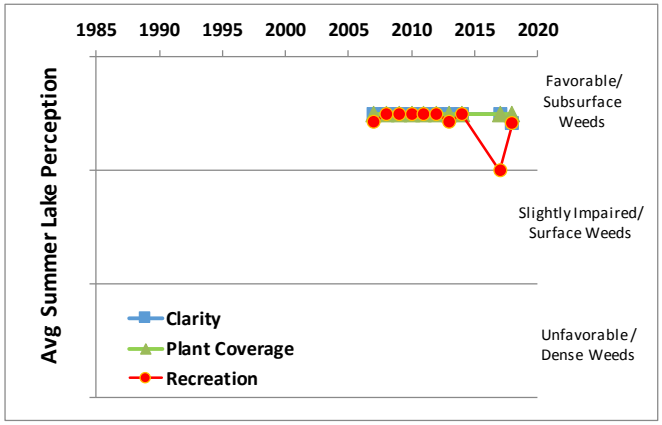

## pH



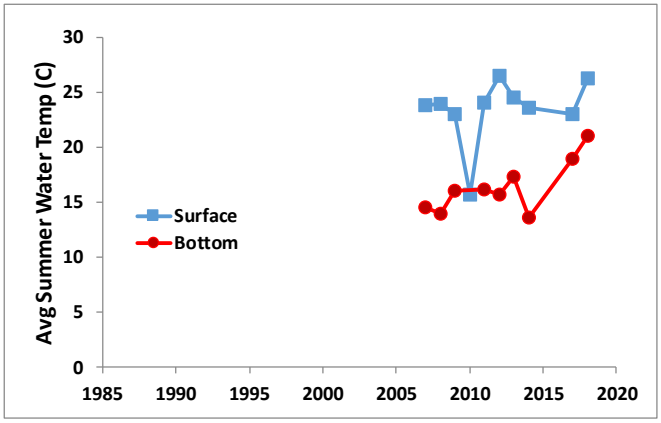

## Specific Conductance



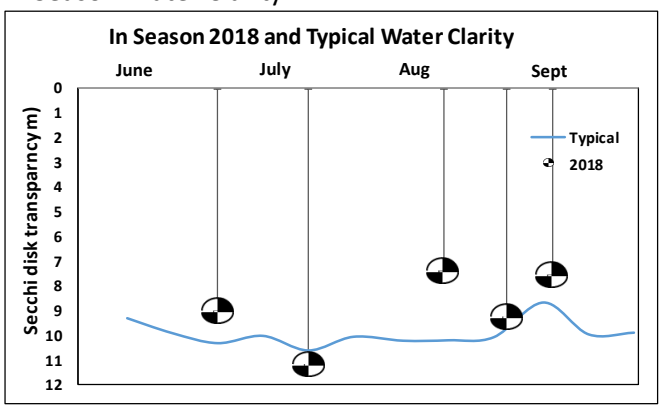
Lake Perception



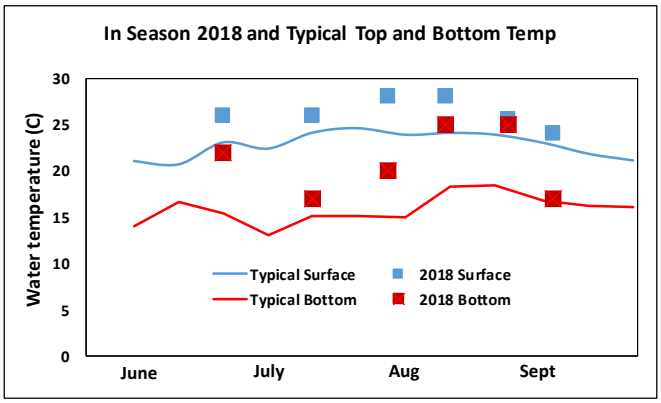

Surface and Deep Temperature



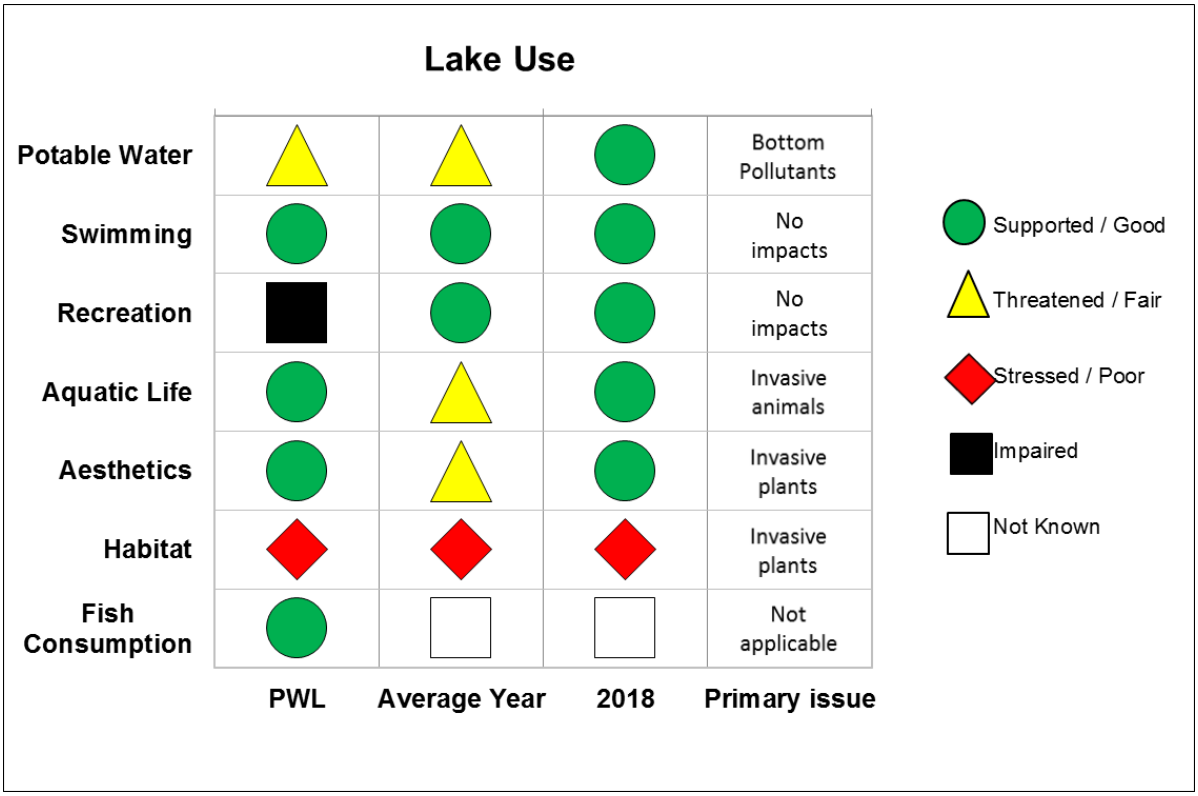

In Season Water Clarity




In Season Water Temperature




## Scorecard



# CSLAP sampling summary- Lake George (Gull Bay), 2018

**Q. What is the condition of the lake?**
**A.** Lake George-Gull Bay continues to be oligotrophic, or unproductive, based on high water clarity, low algae levels (chlorophyll a), and low nutrient (phosphorus) levels. Soluble nutrients were analyzed for the first time in 2018. Most of the phosphorus in the lake is soluble, indicating a high potential for more algae growth. Most of the nitrogen in the lake is soluble. The lake has near neutral pH, intermediate hardness water, low water color, and low nitrogen levels.

**Q. How did 2018 compare to previous years?**
**A.** Bottom temperatures readings were higher than normal, and water clarity readings were lower than normal in 2018. Each of the other water quality indicators was close to normal in 2018.

**Q. How does this lake compare to other nearby lakes?**
**A.** Compared to other nearby lakes, Lake George-Gull Bay usually has higher water clarity, pH, conductivity, calcium levels, and chloride levels, and lower chlorophyll a and phosphorus readings. Lake George-Gull Bay usually has more favorable water quality and recreational assessments, and less extensive aquatic plant coverage.

Water quality conditions are similar in all four CSLAP sites sampled in 2018- Gull Bay, Hearts Bay, Basin Bay, and Diamond Island. Water clarity was highest in Gull Bay and lowest in Hearts Bay (but all readings were very high), and conductivity and chloride levels were slightly highest in Diamond Island and Basin Bay than in the other two sites. However, nearly all indicators were similar in all four sites.

**Q. Are there any (statistically significant) trends?**
**A.** Since 2007, bottom water temperatures have increased slightly. Water clarity has decreased slightly. None of the other water quality indicators has exhibited any clear long-term trends.

**Q. Has the lake experienced harmful algal blooms (HABs)?**
**A.** Water quality conditions indicate a low susceptibility to blooms, with no reported blooms along the shoreline or in the open water. The open water algal community in the lake is usually comprised of low to intermediate cyanobacteria levels. Overall open water algae levels are low. Open water toxin levels are consistently below recreational levels of concern.

In 2018, overall algae levels were low, with other algae the most common taxa in open water samples, and with low cyanobacteria levels. Open water toxin levels were undetectable. Shoreline blooms in 2018 were not reported or not sampled.

**Q. Have any aquatic invasive species (AIS) been reported?**
**A.** There are invasive plants reported or present at Lake George, and invasives have been reported in nearby waterbodies. Invasive species reported in the lake include Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and brittle naiad. Asian clam, zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, and virile crayfish has been reported in Lake George. Lake George-Gull Bay has high vulnerability for new invasives, since AIS are already found at the lake and given many public access points.

**Q. Are any lake uses likely to be affected by these conditions?**
**A.** Lake George-Gull Bay supports recreation and public bathing use. Public water supply is impacted by deepwater metals and other contaminants. Public bathing and recreation appear to be fully supported. Aquatic life is threatened by the presence of invasive animals. Aesthetics are fair due to the presence of invasive aquatic plants. Habitat is fair due to the need for aquatic plant (weed) management, and impacted by the presence of invasive aquatic plants. Fish Consumption use is considered to be unassessed. There are no health advisories limiting the consumption of fish from this waterbody (beyond the general advice for all waters). However, due to the lack of actual fish sampling data, fish consumption use is noted as unassessed, rather than fully supported but unconfirmed.

# How to Read the Report

This guide provides a description of the CSLAP report by section and a glossary. The sampling site is indicated in the header for lakes with more than one routine sampling site.

**Physical Characteristics influence lake quality:**

- Surface area is the lake's surface in acres and hectares.
- Max depth is the water depth measured at the deepest part of the lake in feet and meters.
- Mean depth is either known from lake bathymetry or is 0.46 of the maximum depth.
- Retention time is the time it takes for water to pass through a lake in years. This indicates the influence of the watershed on lake conditions.
- Lake classification describes the "best uses" for this lake. Class AA, AAspec, and A lakes may be used as sources of potable water. Class B lakes are suitable for contact recreational activities, like swimming. Class C lakes are suitable for non-contact recreational activities, including fishing, although they may still support swimming. The addition of a T or TS to any of these classes indicates the ability of a lake to support trout populations and/or trout spawning.
- Dam classification defines the hazard class of a dam. Class A, B, C, and D dams are defined as low, intermediate, high, or negligible/no hazard dams in that order. "0" indicates that no class has been assigned to a particular dam, or that no dam exists.

**Watershed characteristics influence lake water quality:**

- Watershed area in acres and hectares
- Land use data come from the most recent (2011) US Geological Survey National Land Use Cover dataset

**CSLAP Participation** lists the sampling years and the current year volunteers.

**Key lake status indicators summarize lake conditions:**

- Trophic state of a lake refers to its nutrient loading and productivity, measured by phosphorus, algae, and clarity. An oligotrophic lake has low nutrient and algae levels (low productivity) and high clarity while a eutrophic lake has high nutrient and algae levels (high productivity) and low clarity. Mesotrophic lakes fall in the middle.
- Harmful algal bloom susceptibility summarizes the available historical HAB data and indicates the potential for future HAB events.
- Invasive vulnerability indicates whether aquatic invasive species are found in this lake or in nearby lakes, indicating the potential for further introductions.
- Priority waterbody list (PWL) assessment is based on the assessment of use categories and summarized as fully supported, threatened, stressed, impaired, or precluded. Aesthetics and habitat are evaluated as good, fair, or poor. The cited PWL assessment reflects the "worst" assessment for the lake. The full PWL assessment can be found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/36730.html#WIPWL.

**Current year sampling results**

- Results for each of the sampling sessions in the year are in tabular form. The seasonal change graphically shows the current year results. Red shading indicates eutrophic readings.
- HAB notification periods on the DEC website, updated weekly http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html
- Shoreline HAB sample dates and results. Samples are collected from the area that appears to have the worst bloom. Red shading indicates a confirmed HAB.
- HAB sample algae analysis. Algae types typically change during the season. These charts show the amount of the different types of algae found in each mid-lake or shoreline sample. Samples with high levels of BGA are HABs. The second set of charts show the level of toxins found in open water and shoreline samples compared to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.
- If there are more than ten shoreline bloom samples collected in a year, bloom sample information is instead summarized by month (May-Oct.) as minimum, average, and maximum values for blue-green algae and microcystin.

**Long Term Trend Analysis** puts the current year findings in context. Summer averages (mid-June thru mid-September) for each of the CSLAP years show trends in key water quality indicators. The graphs include relevant criteria (trophic categories, water quality standards, etc.) and boundaries separating these criteria.

**In-Season Analysis** shows water temperature and water clarity during the sampling season. These indicate seasonal changes and show the sample year results compared to the typical historical readings for those dates.

**The Lake Use Scorecard** presents the results of the existing Priority Waterbody List assessment for this lake in a graphical form and compares it to information from the current year and average values from CSLAP data and other lake information. Primary issues that could impact specific use categories are identified, although more issues could also affect each designated use.

**The Lake Summary** reviews and encapsulates the data in the lake report, including comparisons to historical data from this lake, and results from nearby lakes.

## Glossary of water quality and HAB indicators

**Clarity (m)**: The depth to which a Secchi disk lowered into the water is visible, measured in meters. Water clarity is one of the trophic indicators for each lake.

**TP (mg/L)**: Total phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface). TP includes all dissolved and particulate forms of phosphorus. TSP, or total soluble phosphorus, was collected in 2018 and discussed in the lake narrative section.

**Deep TP**: Total phosphorus measured in milligrams per liter at depth (1-2 meters above the lake bottom at the deepest part of the lake)

**TN**: Total nitrogen, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface. TN includes all forms of nitrogen, including **NOx** (nitrite and nitrate) and **$NH_4$** (ammonia).

**N:P Ratio**: The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus, unitless (mass ratio). This ratio helps determine if a lake is phosphorous or nitrogen limited.

**Chl.a (µg/L)**: Chlorophyll a, measured in micrograms per liter. Indicates the amount of algae in the water column. This is an extracted chlorophyll measurement.

**pH**: A range from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic and 14 being the most basic or alkaline. A healthy lake generally ranges between 6.5 and 8.5.

**Cond (µmho/cm)**: Specific conductance is a measure of the conductivity of water. A higher value indicates the presence of more dissolved ions. High ion concentrations (> 250) usually indicate hardwater, and low readings (< 125) usually show softwater.

**Upper Temp (°C)**: Surface temperature, measured in degrees Celsius

**Deep Temp (°C)**: Bottom temperature, measured in degrees Celsius

**BG Chl.a (µg/L)**: Chlorophyll a from blue-green algae, measured in micrograms per liter. This is an "unextracted" estimate using a fluoroprobe. This result is not as accurate as the extracted chlorophyll measurement described above.

**HABs: Harmful Algal Blooms.** Algal blooms that have the appearance of cyanobacteria (BGA)

**BGA**: Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria

**Microcystin (µg/L)**: The most common HAB liver toxin; total microcystin above 20 micrograms per liter indicates a "high toxin" bloom. However, ALL BGA blooms should be avoided, even if toxin levels are low.

**Anatoxin-a (µg/L)**: A toxin that may be produced in a HAB which targets the central nervous system. Neither EPA nor NYS has developed a risk threshold for anatoxin-a, although readings above 4 micrograms per liter are believed to represent an elevated risk.