NH Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program
Current Year Chemical and Biological Data

ASHUELOT POND - WASHINGTON

7/7/2023

Station ID	Station Name	Zone	Depth	Startdate	Activity ID	Color	Cl	Chl-a	EC	ANC	PH	TP	Secchi		Cond	Turb
													NVS	VS		
ASHWASBS	Ashuelot Pond-Lae Beach Shallow			6/5/2023	2023-583				1							
ASHWASD	Ashuelot Pond-Deep Spot	Comp	5M	6/5/2023	2023-584			5.99								
		Epi	2M	6/5/2023	2023-577	70	<3				6.14	0.0154	2.33	2.85	25	1.52
		Hypo	5M	6/5/2023	2023-578						6	0.0156			24.90	1.55
ASHWASMA	Ashuelot Pond-Marina Inlet			6/5/2023	2023-579						5.89	0.0158			28.40	1.32
ASHWASMI	Ashuelot Pond-Millen Inlet			6/5/2023	2023-580						5.75	0.0157			24.90	1.75
ASHWASO	Ashuelot Pond-Outlet			6/5/2023	2023-582						5.87	0.0153			24.70	1.58
ASHWASRI	Ashuelot Pond-River Inlet			6/5/2023	2023-581						5.84	0.0142			28.20	1.36

Please Note: pH (units), TP (mg/L) (ND = < 0.005 mg/L), Cond (UMHOS/cm), Secchi (M) VS = ViewScope, NVS=NonViewScope, EC = E. coli (cts/100mL), Turbidity (NTU), ANC (mg/L), Chloride (mg/L), Chl-A (mg/M3), Color is Apparent Color (PCU)

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VLAP CHEMICAL PARAMETER EXPLANATIONS

pH

Definition: pH is measured on a logarithmic scale of 0 to 14. Lake pH is important to the survival and reproduction of fish and other aquatic life. A pH below 5.5 severely limits the growth and reproduction of fish.

pH (units)	Category
<5	Acidified
5.0-5.4	Critical
5.5-6.4	Endangered
6.5-8.0	Satisfactory

ACID NEUTRALIZING CAPACITY (ANC)

Definition: Buffering capacity or Acid Neutralizing Capacity (ANC) describes the ability of a solution to resist changes in pH by neutralizing the acidic input to the lake. Historically, the waters of NH have had low ANC because of the prevalence of granite bedrock. The relatively low ANC values mean that NH surface waters are vulnerable to the effects of acid precipitation.

ANC (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	Category
<0	Acidified
0-2	Extremely Vulnerable
2.1-10	Moderately Vulnerable
10.1-25	Low Vulnerability
>25	Not Vulnerable

TURBIDITY

Definition: Turbidity in the water is caused by suspended matter (such as clay, silt, and algae) that cause light to be scattered and absorbed, not transmitted in straight lines through water. High turbidity readings are often found in water adjacent to construction sites. Also, improper sampling techniques (such as hitting the bottom sediments or sampling streams with little flow) may also cause high turbidity readings. The Class B standard for a water quality violation is 10 NTUs over the lake background level.

Statistical Summary of Turbidity Values for NH Lakes and Ponds:

Turbidity (NTUs)	Category
<0.1	Minimum
22.0	Maximum
1.0	Median

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

***Note:** The phosphorus results during the summer are reported by the DES State Chemistry lab with the units "**mg/L**". To convert to **"ug/L"**, move the decimal point over **three** places to the right.*

Definition: Phosphorus is the most important water quality parameter measured in our lakes. It is the nutrient that limits algae's ability to grow and reproduce. Phosphorus sources around a lake typically include septic systems, animal waste, lawn fertilizer, erosion from roads and construction sites, and natural wetlands.

Total Phosphorus (TP) Ranges for New Hampshire Lakes and Ponds:

TP (ug/L)	Category
1-10	Low (good)
11-20	Average
21-40	High
>40	Excessive

CONDUCTIVITY

Definition: Conductivity is the numerical expression of the ability of water to carry an electrical current. It is determined by the number of ionic particles present. The soft waters of New Hampshire have traditionally had low conductivity values. High conductivity may indicate pollution from such sources as road salting, septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, or agriculture runoff.

Note: Specific categories of good and bad levels can not be constructed for conductivity, because variations in watershed geology can result in natural fluctuations in conductivity. However, values in NH lakes exceeding 100 uMhos/cm generally indicate human disturbance.

CHLORIDE

The chloride ion (Cl^-) is found naturally in some surface ground waters and in high concentrations in seawater. Research has shown that elevated chloride levels can be toxic to freshwater aquatic life. In order to protect freshwater aquatic life in New Hampshire, the state has adopted acute and chronic chloride criteria of 860 and 230 mg/L respectively. The chloride content in New Hampshire lakes is naturally low, generally less than 2 mg/L in surface waters located in remote areas away from habitation. Higher values are generally associated with salted highways and, to a lesser extent, with septic inputs.

VLAP BIOLOGICAL PARAMETER EXPLANATIONS

CHLOROPHYLL-A

Definition: VLAP measures chlorophyll-a, a pigment found in plants, as an indicator of algal abundance. Because algae is a plant and contains chlorophyll-a, the concentration of chlorophyll-a found in the water provides an estimation of the concentration of algae.

Chlorophyll-a (ug/L)	Category
0-5	Good
5.1 – 15	More than desirable
>15	Nuisance Amounts

WATER CLARITY (SECCHI-DISK TRANSPARENCY)

Definition: The Secchi-disk is a 20cm disk with alternating black and white quadrants used to measure water clarity (how far a person can see into the water). Transparency, a measure of water clarity, is affected by the amount of algae, color, and particulate matter within a lake.

Water Clarity (m)	Category
< 2	Poor
2-4.5	Good
> 4.5	Exceptional

Note: Clarity may vary depending on the maximum depth of the lake/pond. For example, if the maximum depth of the pond is 3 meters, a good clarity reading would be 2-3 meters.

APPARENT COLOR

Definition: A visual measure of the color of water. This color is generally caused by decaying organic matter or by naturally occurring metals in the soils, such as iron and manganese. A highly colored lake generally has extensive wetlands along the shore or within the watershed, and often a mucky bottom, conditions often associated with eutrophic waters.

Color (PCU)	Category
0-25	clear
25-40	light tea color
40-80	tea color
>80	highly colored

DEFINITION OF UNITS

cts/100ml= Counts per 100 millileters. *E. coli* concentration.
m= meters. Used to measure Secchi disk depth.
mg/L = Milligrams per liter. Acid neutralizing capacity, chloride, and dissolved oxygen concentrations.
NTUs = Nephelometric turbidity unit.
ug/L = Micrograms per liter. Total phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a concentration.
uMhos/cm = Micromhos per centimeter. Conductivity measure.
PCU = Platinum cobalt unit. Apparent Color measure.

BACTERIA (*E. COLI*)

Definition: *E. coli* is a natural component of the intestines in humans and other warm-blooded animals. *E. coli* is used as an indicator organism for bacteriological monitoring because it is easily cultured and its presence in the water in defined amounts indicates that sewage MAY be present. If sewage is present in the water, potentially harmful pathogens may also be present.

The state standards for Class B waters specify no more than 406 *E. coli* cts /100mL in any one sample, or a geometric mean based on at least 3 samples obtained over a 60-day period be greater than 126 *E. coli* cts/100mL. For designated beach areas, more stringent standards apply: 88 *E. coli* cts/100 mL in any one sample, or a geometric mean of 3 samples over 60 days of 47 *E. coli* cts/100 mL.

PHYTOPLANKTON

(Note: Phytoplankton results will be included in the annual VLAP Report)

Definition: Phytoplankton are microscopic algae floating in the water column. The type of phytoplankton present in a lake can be used as an indicator of general lake quality. An abundance of cyanobacteria (such as *Anabaena, Aphanizomenon, Oscillatoria*, or *Microcystis*) may indicate excessive phosphorus concentrations or that the lake ecology is out of balance. Diatoms (such as *Asterionella, Melosira*, and *Tabellaria*) and golden-brown algae (such as *Dinobryon* or *Chrysosphaerella*) are typical of NH's less productive lakes.

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

Definition: Dissolved Oxygen or "DO" refers to the volume of oxygen contained within the water. Much of the DO in lakes comes from the atmosphere, inflowing streams and photosynthesis. Fish and other aquatic life depend on DO to survive. Seasonal changes can affect DO concentrations throughout the year. Warmer temperatures during the summer speed up the rates of photosynthesis and decomposition. When plants and algae die and decompose, oxygen is consumed. This decreases the amount of oxygen, especially in the un-circulated hypolimnion (lower) water layer. In the winter, under ice cover, the DO content can also deplete due to the lack of circulation from the atmosphere.

DO levels above 5.0 mg/L are considered sufficient for most aquatic life, although some cold water fish species require higher DO levels.