

Melody Lake Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

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

A1. Water clarity appears to have decreased over the last two decades, including 2014, although this change is not statistically significant, most likely due to a rise in nutrient levels. This has resulted in less favorable water quality and recreational assessments. Few shoreline blooms were reported in 2014, and plant (weed) coverage was still low.

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 results showed increasing total algae levels during the summer, but the open water algae samples are comprised primarily of (non-toxic) diatoms and green algae. Shoreline blooms are at times dense and comprised of blue green algae.

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

A3. Melody Lake had slightly lower water clarity, but similar nutrient algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is much lower than in these other lakes.

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



















A4. Few clear statistical trends are apparent- water temperatures have increased and plant coverage (in response to grass carp stocking) has decreased. However, there is some evidence that water clarity is lower now than in the mid-1990s, due to higher phosphorus readings.






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

A5. The drop in water clarity should be further evaluated by lake residents, particularly since algae levels did not consistently increase over the same period. Sources of phosphorus, sediment or other materials contributing to the drop in water transparency should continue to be evaluated. Shoreline blooms should continue to be reported.

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 and runoff into the lake will help to maintain lake health 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 presently found in the lake.

Lake Use				
	PWL	Average Year	2014	Primary issue
Potable Water				Not applicable
Swimming				Algae levels
Boating / Fishing				No impacts
Aquatic Life				Few plants
Aesthetics				Algae levels
Fish Consumption				Not applicable

 Supported
 Threatened
 Stressed
 Impaired
 Not Known