

Oquaga Lake Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

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

A1. Water quality conditions in Oquaga Lake continue to be highly favorable; water clarity is very high due to very low nutrient and algae levels. No invasive species or shoreline algae blooms have been reported in the lake (although aquatic plant coverage has increased in recent years).

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 very low open water algae levels that are usually comprised of a mix of algae species. No shoreline blue green algae blooms have been reported.

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

A3. Oquaga Lake had much higher water clarity, and much lower nutrient and algae levels, than the typical lake in the area. Aquatic plant coverage is comparable to the plant coverage in these other lakes, but it is not known if this is comprised of native or invasive plants.

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



















A4. Water clarity has been consistently high over the last decade, due to a drop in nutrient and algae levels over the same period. Aquatic plant coverage has increased in the last decade, while conductivity and water temperatures have decreased slightly over the last 25 years.






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

A5. Oquaga Lake does not appear to be susceptible to shoreline blue green algae blooms, although very high clarity might make the lake susceptible to plant growth (native or exotic) in deeper water. Any measures lake residents are taking to minimize nutrient and sediment loading to the lake should be continued (since they seem to be working).

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				No impacts
Swimming				No impacts
Boating / Fishing				No impacts
Aquatic Life				No impacts
Aesthetics				No impacts
Fish Consumption				Not applicable

 Supported
 Threatened
 Stressed
 Impaired
 Not Known