

Oquaga Lake Questions and Answers, 2015 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. Conditions were mostly similar in 2015 to those in previous years-while water clarity was lower, so were algae levels, and recreational assessments were slightly more favorable.

Q2. Is there anything new that showed up in the testing this year?

A2. Chloride sampling results were typical of lakes with moderate impacts from road salt runoff, although no actual impacts have been reported or measured. A comparison of temperature data to previous years suggests that recent data were inaccurate.

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	2015	
Potable Water				No impacts
Swimming				No impacts
Recreation				No impacts
Aquatic Life				Road salt
Aesthetics				Native plants
Habitat				No impacts
Fish Consumption				

Legend:

-  Supported / Good
-  Threatened / Fair
-  Stressed / Poor
-  Impaired
-  Not Known