

8-24-22 Wisconsin Lake & Pond response to an inquiry about algae and a fish pictures that were sent to them for review:

It is difficult to put a direct cause on why for that fish. If most fish are like that there is cause for more concern. There are a few things that could cause that fish to be a bit thinner - including angling stress, having a hook in its gullet, old age, etc.

The algae is an ongoing issue and one that is tough to tackle. Increased flow through is helpful to keep the lake cleaner, but we rely on Mother Nature and more rain for that. We did take a water sample to test for nutrient loads during our last visit and am planning to take another for our next visit. We can compare those results to past samples to see if there is a change.

Some notes on the lake next steps are below.

The early season curly-leaf pondweed treatment was only approved for select areas by the DNR this year. When we went out, we did a quick look around and found the curly leaf growing in only a few spots, similar to what the DNR found, and did a control application for them. These were the north fingers/bays. It looks like the curly-leaf control from last years has reduced the seed bank and we should see less growth next year too.

Vegetation wise things were sparse in the rest of the lake. No nuisance control was needed around docks during follow-up visits. The algae came on in the summer, aided by little rain to help flush things out.

Aeration maintenance was performed as needed. The pressure relieve valve on the north system was replaced in spring along with belts on both units. Other than that, things were functioning properly for both systems.

We still have a year-end visit coming up in a week or two to get a final assessment of where things are. We will be grabbing a water sample to test for nutrients, take a look at the plant community, and a final aeration check.

For 2023 there are a few items to address. First, the DNR had indicated they would like an update plant survey and management plan to reflect current conditions. This would include an update whole lake plant survey, which was last done in 2016, along with continued water testing. All this data would be compared to past info and used to update the lake plan to guide management for the next 5 years. Rough budget numbers for all this is around \$7-9,000.

Based on this year, I expect minimal need for nuisance plant control which will help for planning budgeting. There may be a need for a smaller curly-leaf treatment again. This cannot be done until after the plant survey, which would be in late mid to late May to fully capture the curly-leaf growth.

The aeration systems are getting up in age. It has been a few years since the last rebuild of the compressors. With the current market situations getting parts may not be easy or cheap since the units are from Germany. It may make sense to swap over to a different compressor type for ease of parts, service, and less operating cost. We can look into this over winter to get some rough numbers together.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know, I am happy to help.

Thank you,

Jim