



44.9° north



Aquatic invasive species

Finding, then eliminating or controlling aquatic invasive species (AIS) is vital to the health of Little Traverse Lake ecosystems and your continuing enjoyment of its recreational opportunities.

AIS survey report

Due to the increasing threat of invasive plants and harmful algae in Leelanau County, the LTL Association



Water Quality Committee contracted with Freshwater Solutions in 2020 to complete a lake wide survey to identify aquatic vegetation and its location. The following is a short summary of that report. View the [entire report here](#).

Submergent plant survey

Sampling of 15 aquatic plant beds around the lake at the drop off produced no evidence of invasive species at this time. It will be important to undertake a yearly survey of LTL aquatic plants because very invasive species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil are present on other area lakes.

Emergent plant survey

A shoreline survey of emergent aquatic plant species identified one patch of invasive Yellow Iris and possible Sporadic Narrow Leaf Cattail.

The biggest area of concern are several patches of invasive Purple Loosestrife. The removal of these, with landowners' assistance, is

recommended. More information about Purple Loosestrife eradication efforts will be highlighted in the next 44.9° north eBulletin.

Yellow Iris should be identified and removed in the late spring when they are blooming. Further monitoring of possible invasive cattail species will also be important.

Algae survey

Golden algae is evident on the north side though it is not known to cause harm to lakes.

A heavy patch of Spirogyra was noted on the southwest side. Though it is a natural element in lake ecosystems, its presence may indicate high nutrient levels. Water chemistry analyses are being undertaken in other studies to assess nutrient loads in the lake.

Learn more

Find more information about related invasive species identification and eradication efforts on the [Little Traverse Lake website](#).

