



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS  
Potential Water Quality Challenges  
Harmful Algal Bloom Research

Shahram Missaghi  
Water Resources Team  
University of Minnesota  
Extension  
Extension; 4100 220th  
Street W.

Ramsey County  
Monday, March 18, 2019 | 4:00 p.m. - 6:00  
p.m.

# Acknowledgements:

<http://HAB.umn.edu>

State Agencies: MPCA, MDH

Local Government, Counties, Cities,  
Researchers, colleges, universities

.....

Educators

Home owners

YOU!

# WATER WARNING



## AVOID CONTACT WITH THE WATER


**This water contains a blue-green algal bloom that can be harmful to humans and pets.**

### **For your safety:**

- Do not swim, waterski, or tube in the water
- Avoid swallowing water
- Stay away from areas of scum when boating

*Photo: Prairie Lake algae3 -*

# TOPIC: HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM RESEARCH

1. **Algae- a quick look**
  2. **Why do we care? Urgency, problem**
  3. **Research:**
  4. **Next**
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

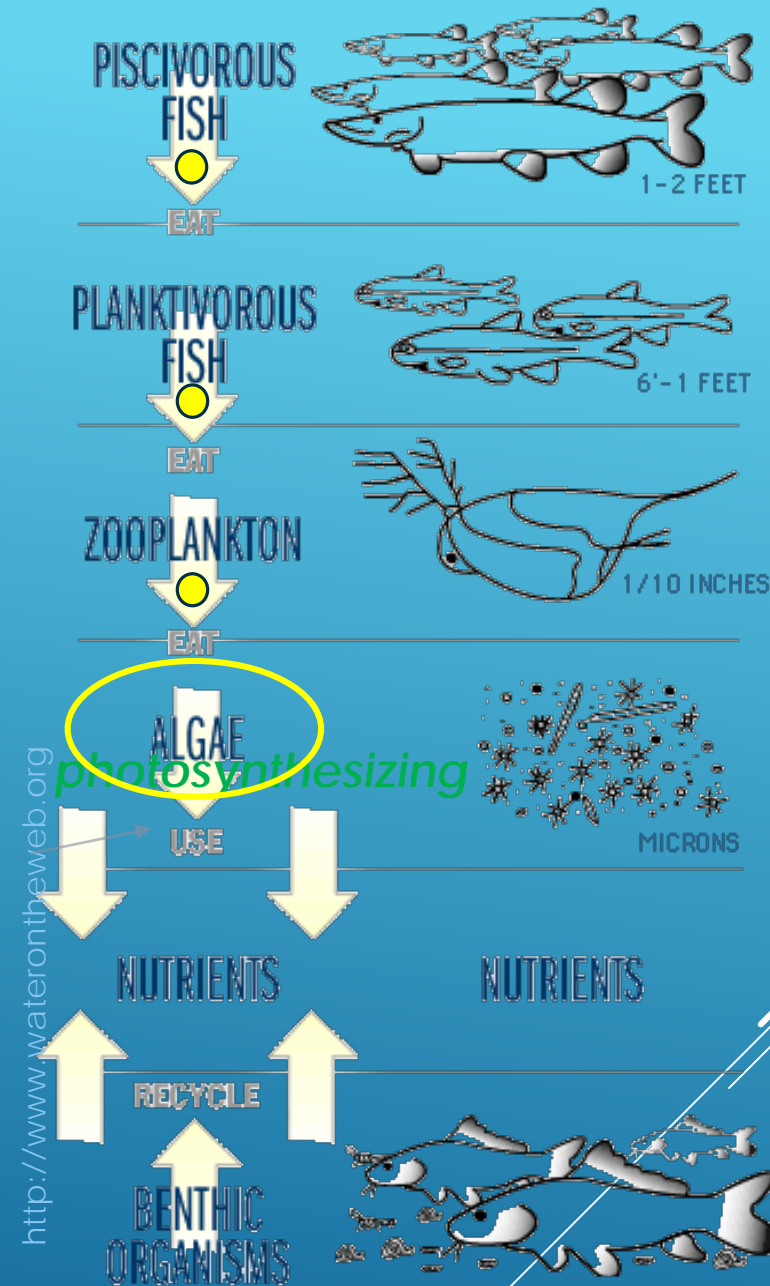
# TOPIC:

ALGAE- A QUICK LOOK

*Lake system: Who eats who?*

Algae **is not** a type, group, domain, or kingdom of living things, but rather **a collection of various organisms** represented from different aquatic groups **that can make their own food and are autotrophs.**

→ Any shape or form in almost anywhere in the world



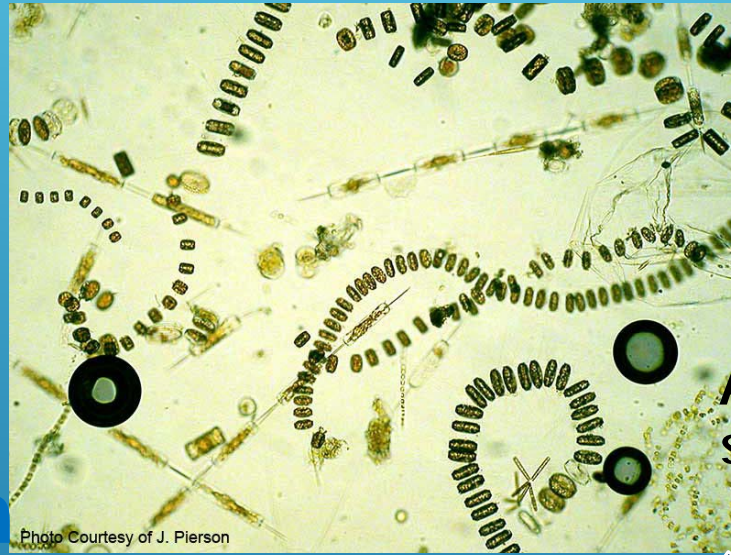
<http://www.waterontheweb.org>

# Algae

*many shapes, forms, and places*

?

Bottom  
sediment



Suspended  
in water

phytoplankton

Attached  
sediment

Attached  
to other  
things

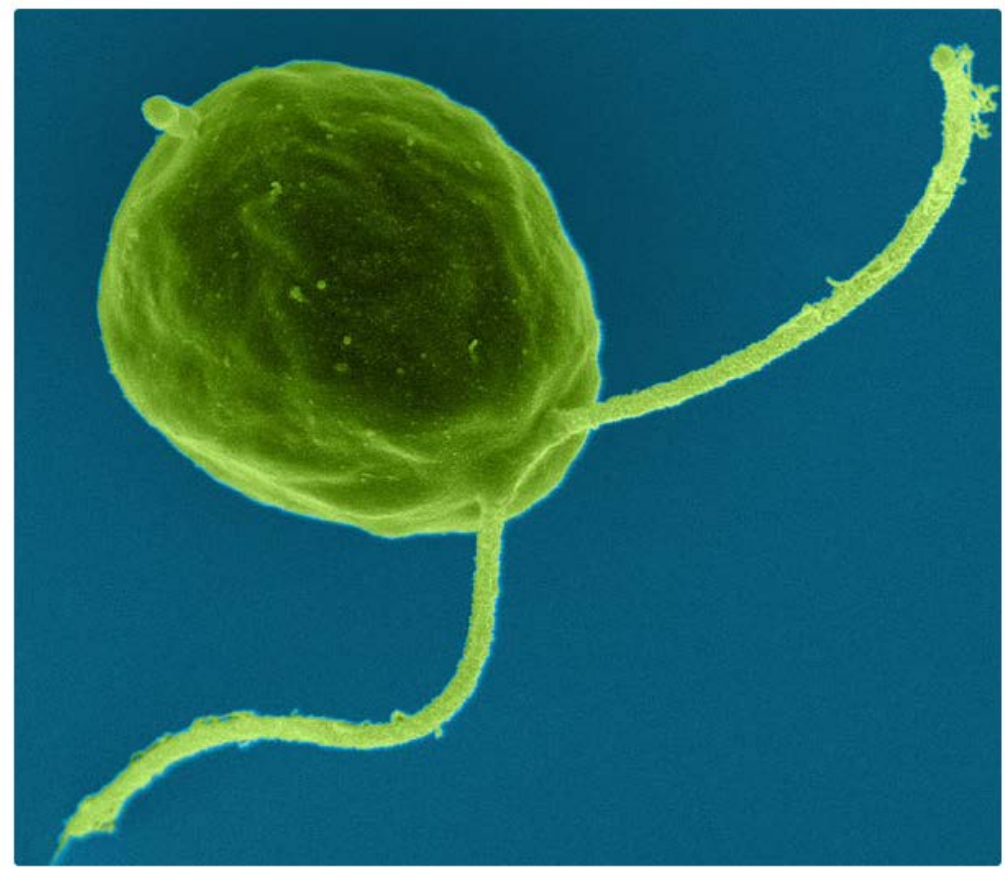
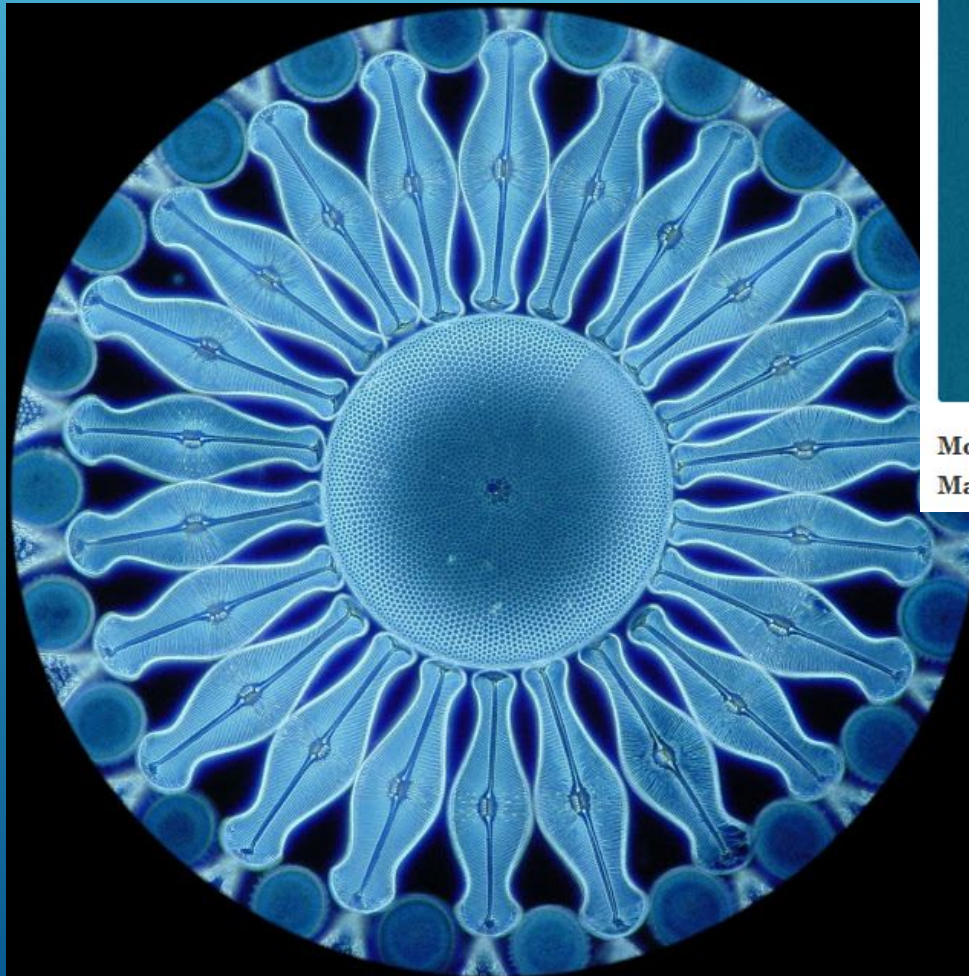


# Algae

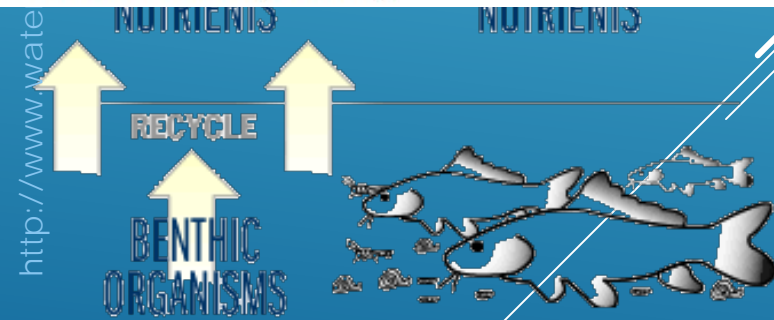
many shapes, forms, and places

## Algae are

good!  
Architects of earth's atmosphere  
3.5 billion years old



Movement of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* studied by Dr. Veikko Geyer at Max Planck researchers in Dresden, Germany.



# Algae

many shapes, forms, and places

Forming mats! (maybe Lyngbya (bluegreen))

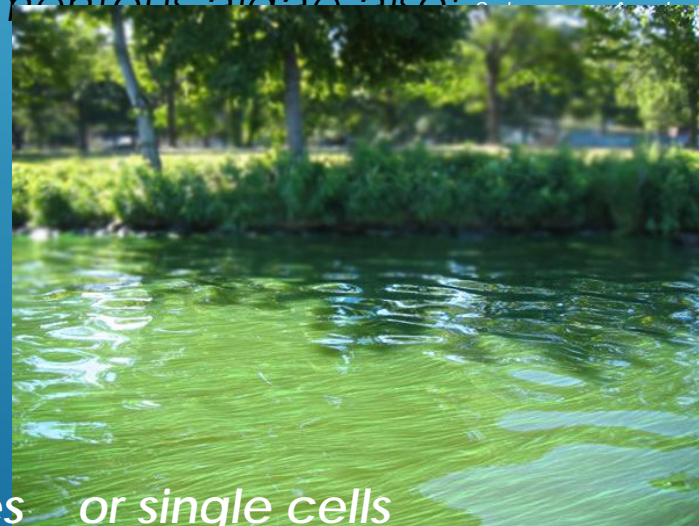


Muskgrass (Chara) -

Filamentous algae also: *Chlorella*, *Scenedesmus*, *Microcystis*, *Lyngbya*



Free floating colonies or single cells





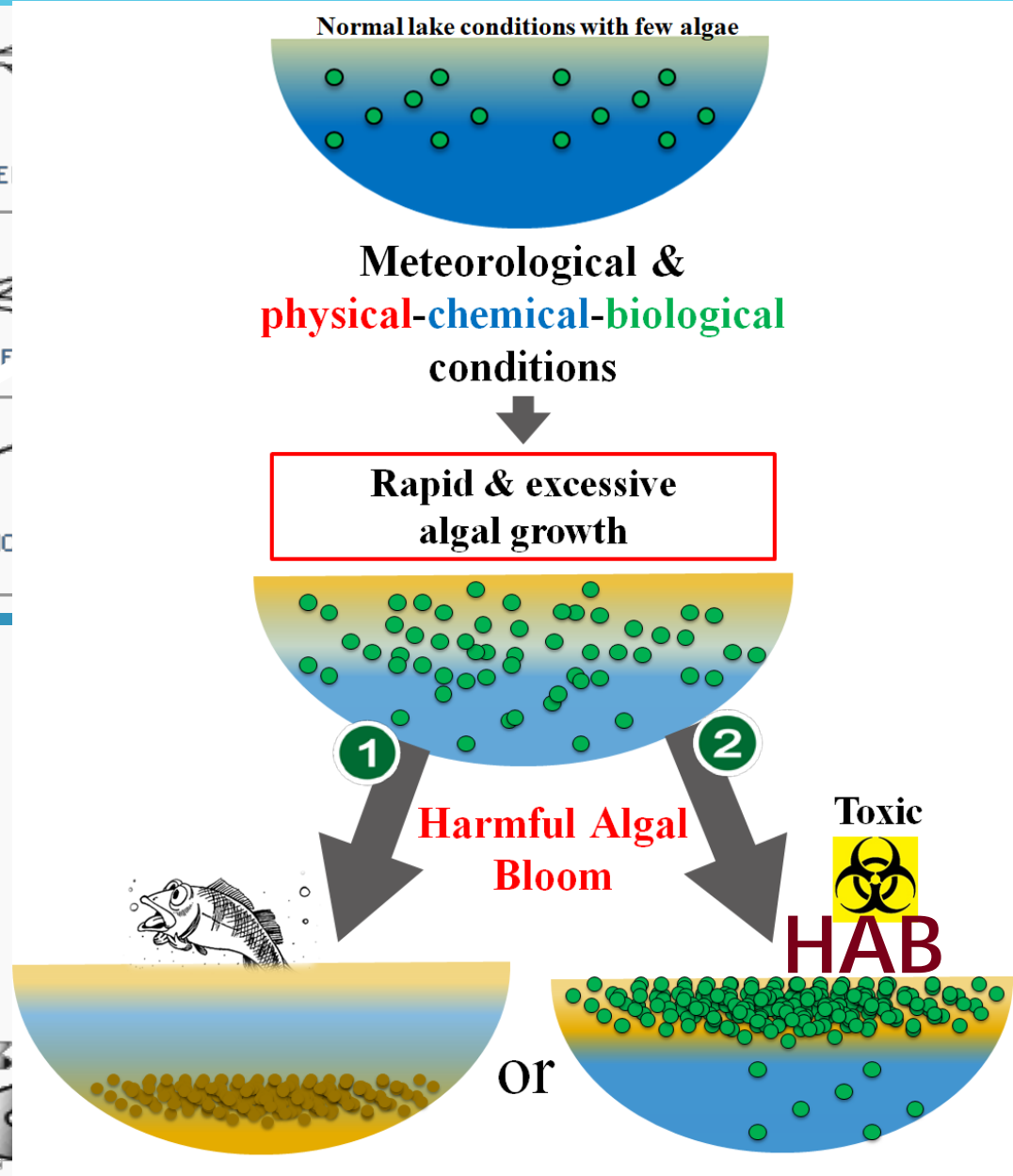
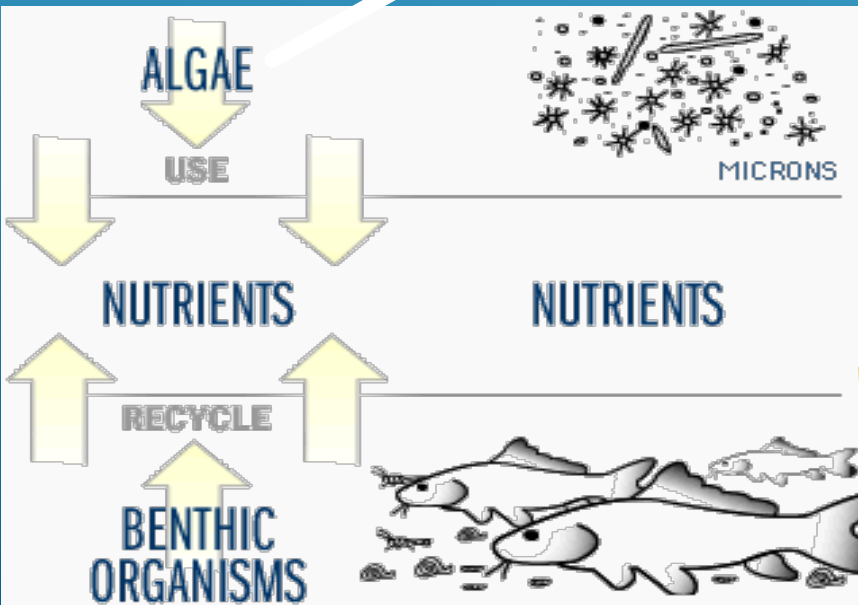
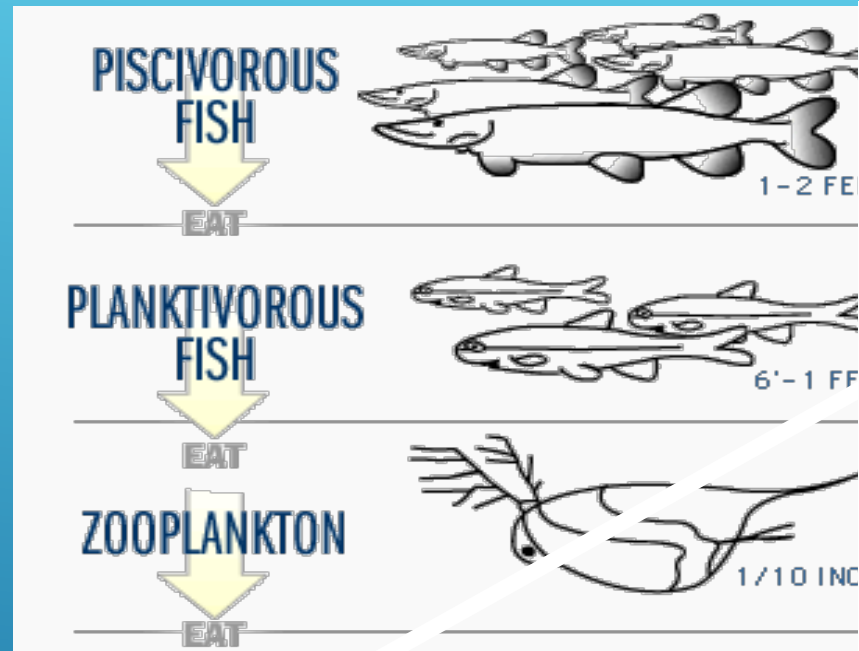
# THE PROBLEM: THEY CAN GROW!



300bluegrealgaeLittle Rock Lake-impaired – MPCA – 11/06



# The **problem**: they can grow!



# The problem: they can grow!



Number of *Microcystis* cells per milliliter of water



# Are all algae HABs?

Put the jar in the refrigerator and leave it undisturbed overnight (MPCA-wq-swm1-04)

—



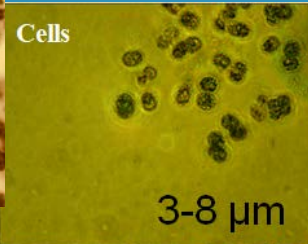
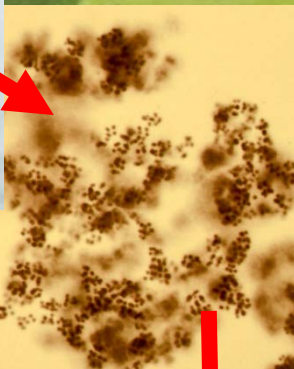
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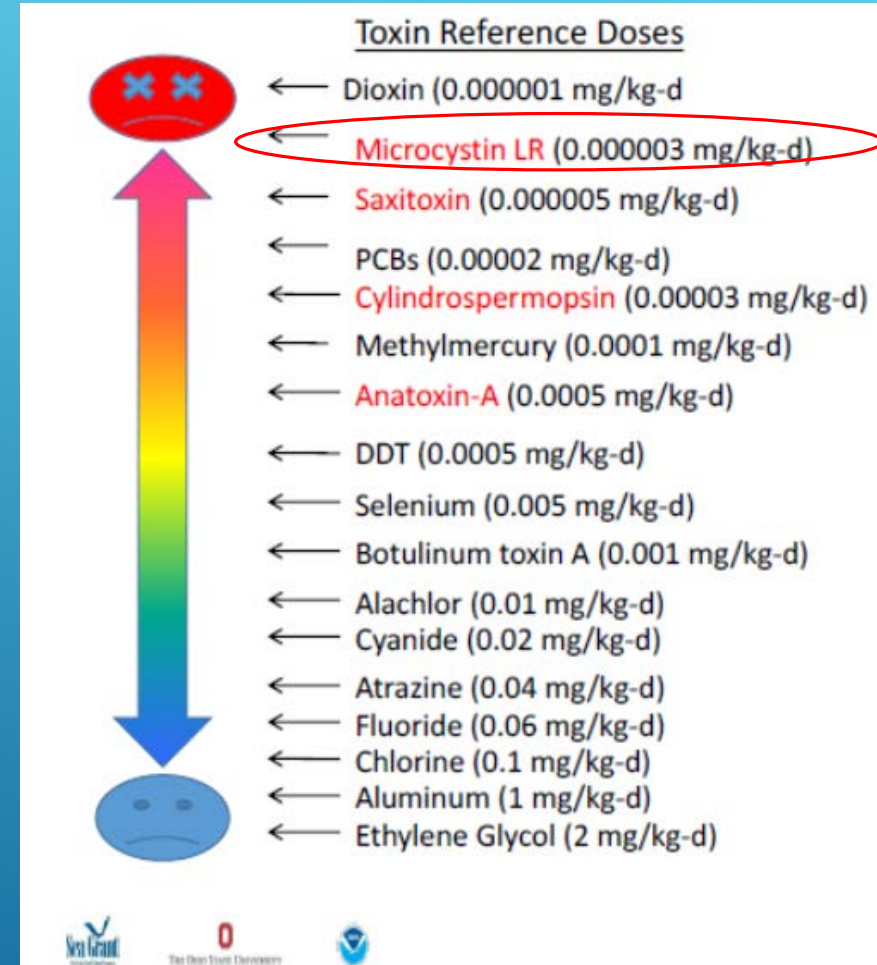
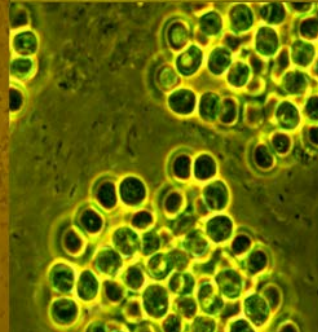
# Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)



**Microcystis**



Colony, mucilage, and bacteri



# Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

## Drinking Water Health Advisories

### ADVISORY LEVEL

Cyanotoxins detected in tap water at levels of concern.

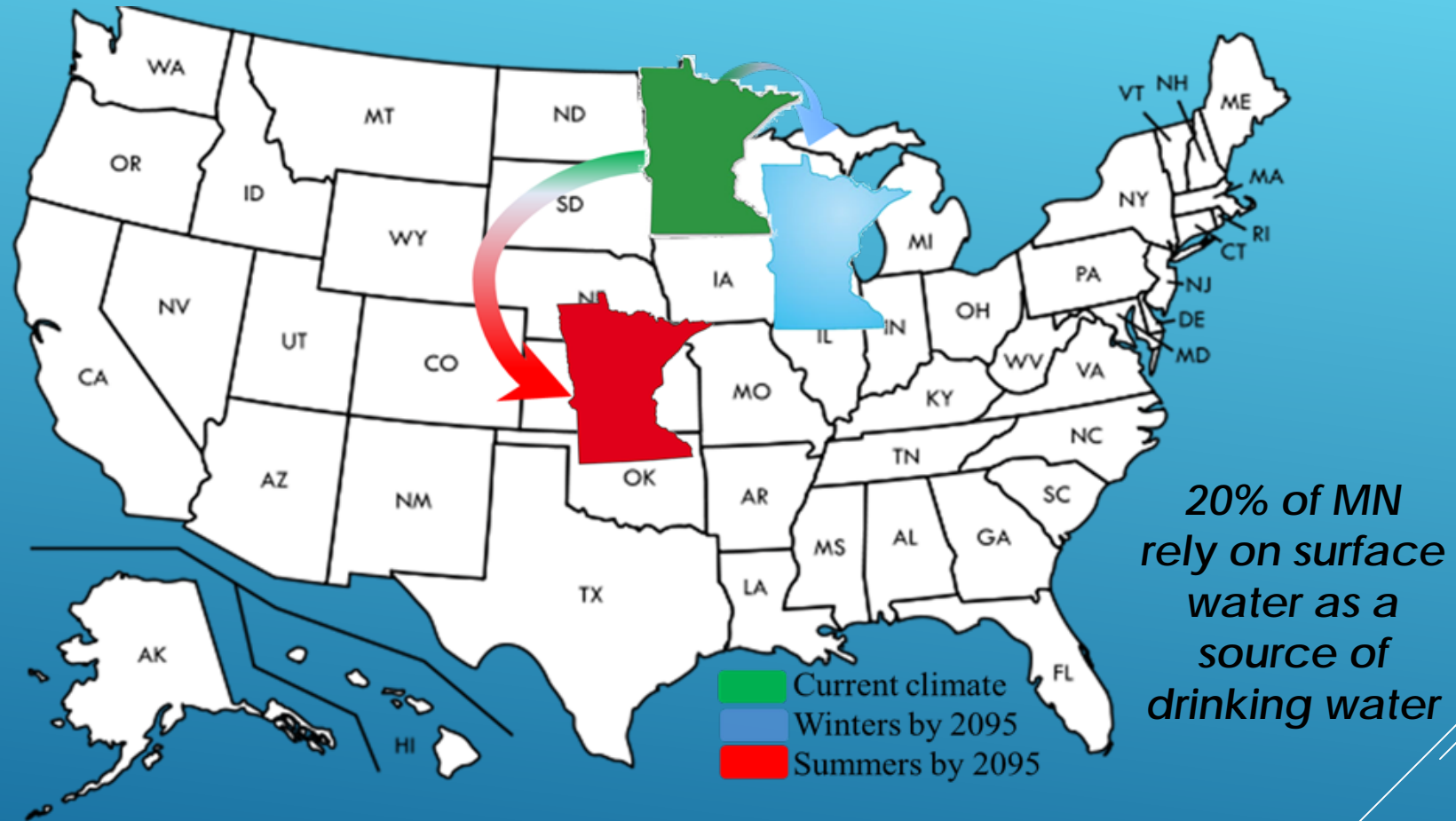
Cyanotoxins detected in tap water at levels of concern for young children and vulnerable populations.\*

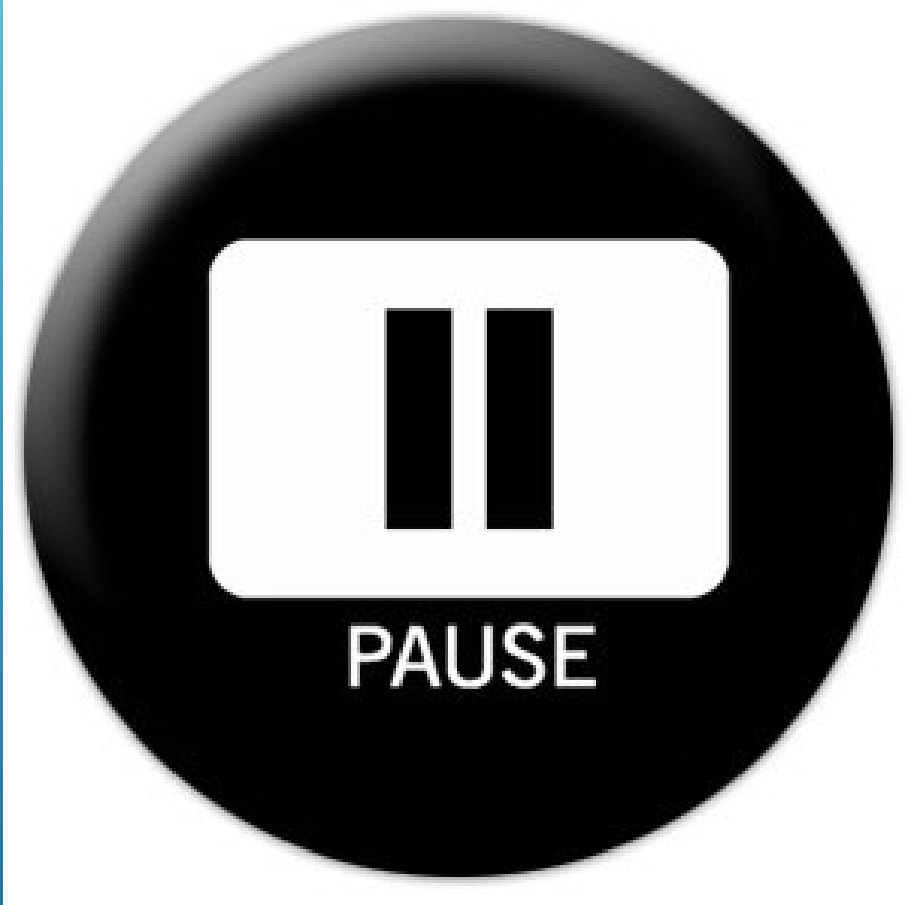
Cyanotoxins not detected in tap water at levels of concern.

### ACTION



# Why does it matter?





ge







## HAB

Harmful blue-green algae in Minnesota lakes

Home

HAB FAQs

HAB News

People ▾

Workshops ▾

# Blue-green algae in Minnesota lakes

## Understanding and predicting harmful algal blooms

Algae blooms can turn water green and smelly, contribute to fish kills, and at times produce toxins that pose a health risk to people and animals. These types of algae blooms are referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms, or HABs, and their occurrence is on the rise in Minnesota lakes, streams and wetlands.

Algae occur naturally in almost all surface waters. They are an essential source of food for many aquatic organisms and come in many shapes and forms.

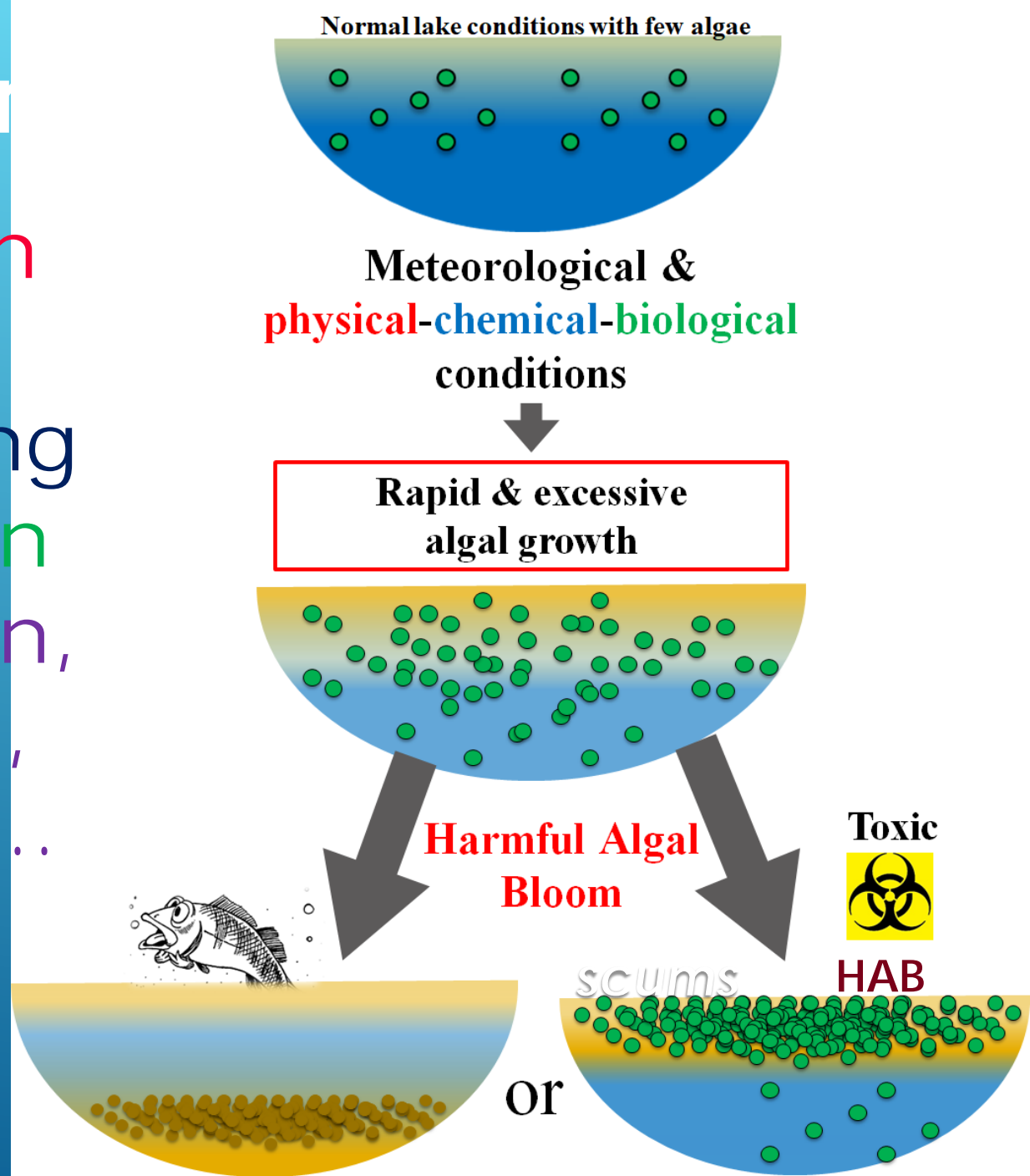
Under the right temperature and water conditions, blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) can grow very rapidly and form extremely high-density populations or "blooms." These colonies can then float to the water surface and form a dense layer of scum.

More frequent HABs may be triggered by a number of factors, including urban and agricultural runoff and climate change.



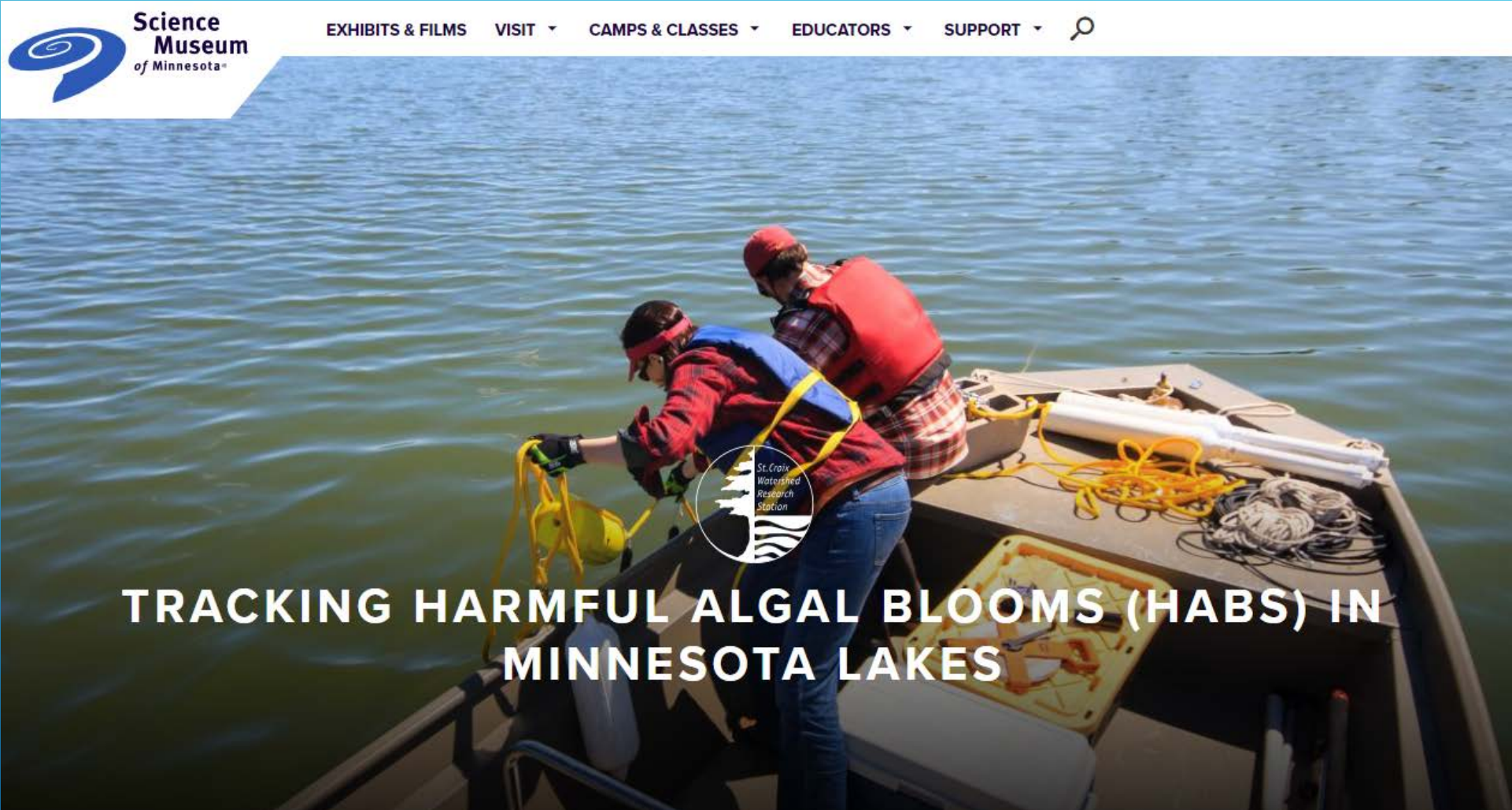
# Research and

- Detection
- Tracking
- Monitoring
- Mitigation
- Education, outreach, training, ...



# Research areas

## Detection & Tracking





Plankton tow sample, Madison Lake (July 2016)

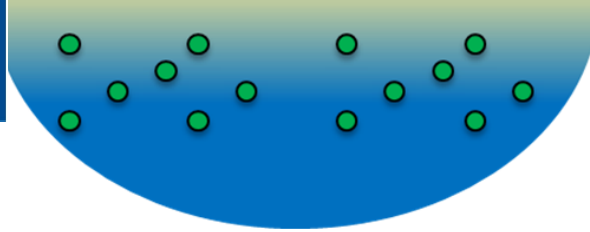


Filtered Chlorophyll a sample from St. James Lake (June 2016)

*Sediment cores  
To see changes through time!*

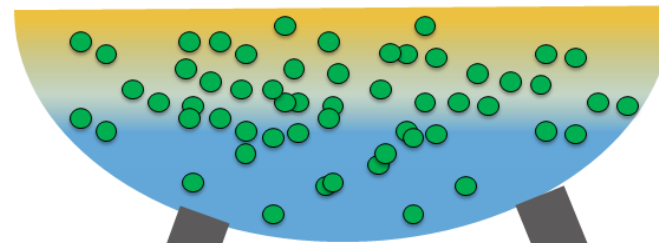


Normal lake conditions with few algae

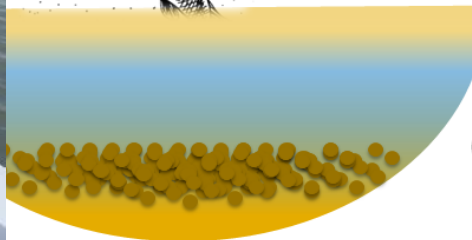


Meteorological &  
**physical-chemical-biological**  
conditions

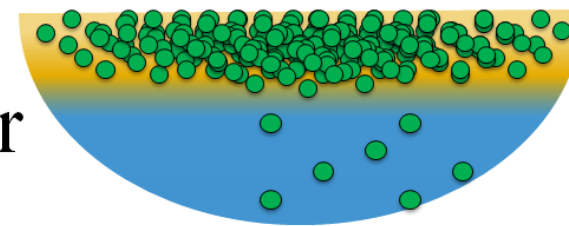
Rapid & excessive  
algal growth



**Harmful Algal  
Bloom**



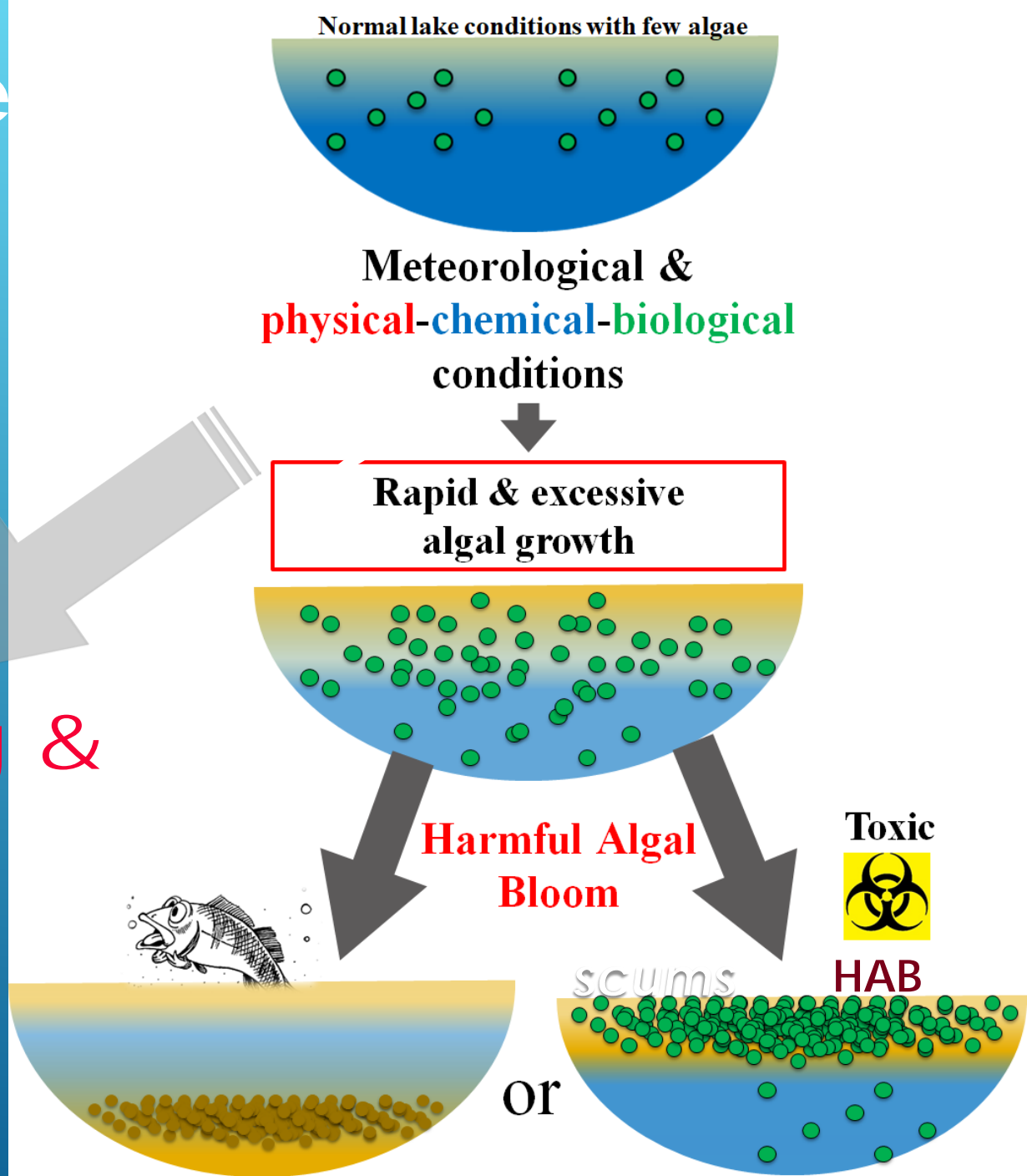
OR



# Why the rese

- Detection
- Tracking
- Monitoring
- Mitigation
- Education, outreach, training,...

Forecasting & Predication



# Prediction of Algal Blooms

Erik Smith  
Richard Kiesling

Upper Midwest  
Water Science  
Center (USGS) -  
Minnesota

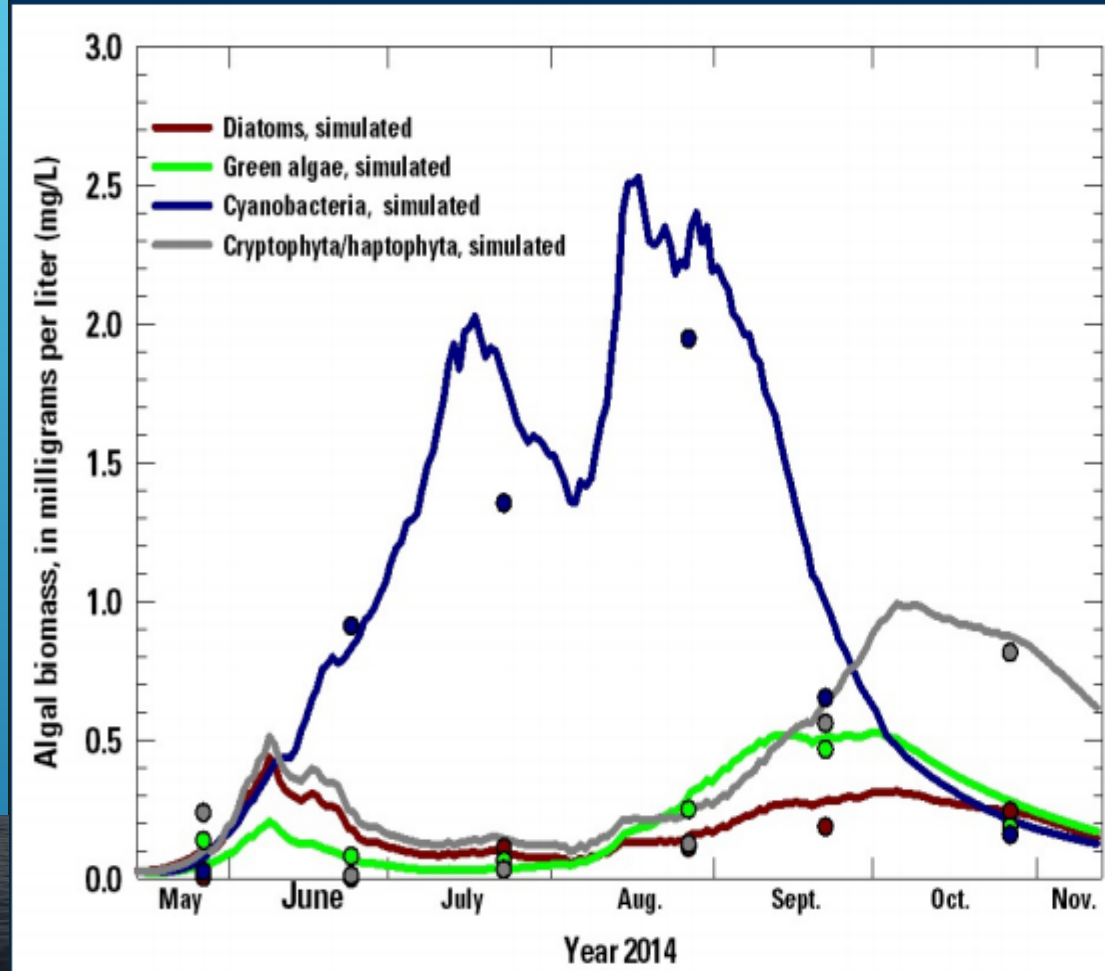


## Lake St. Croix and Madison Lake: Two Different Scales, Same Problem Cyanobacteria

Pool 4, Net Tow Sept 2013



# Pearl Lake Algal Biomass



- Very good correlation to different classifications
- Dominant classification: cyanobacteria
- (measured data: mostly *Microcystis aeruginosa*)
- Cryptophyta / haptophyta late in year

Erik Smith  
Richard Kiesling

Upper Midwest  
Water Science  
Center (USGS) -  
Minnesota

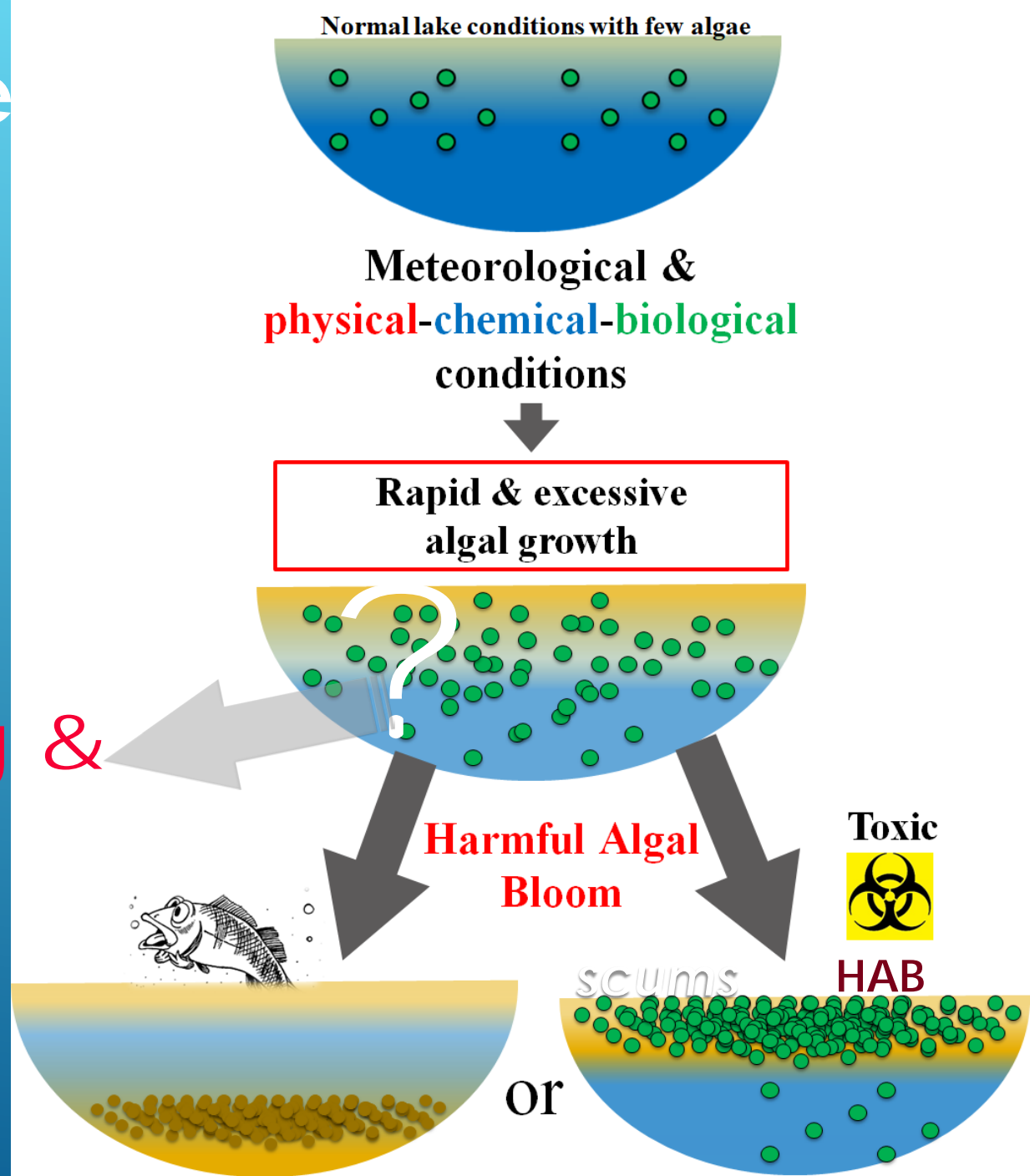




# Why the rese

- Detection
- Tracking
- Monitoring
- Mitigation
- Education, outreach, training,...

Forecasting & Predication



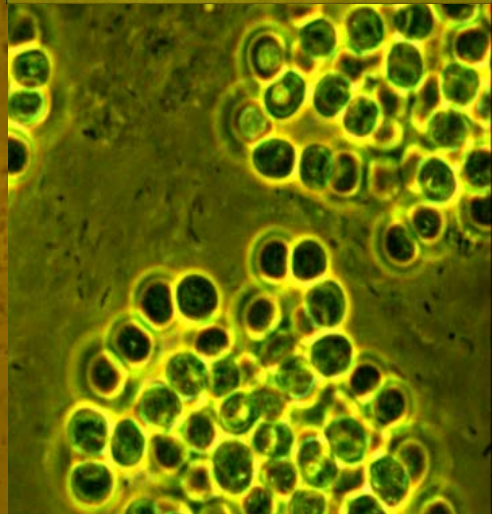
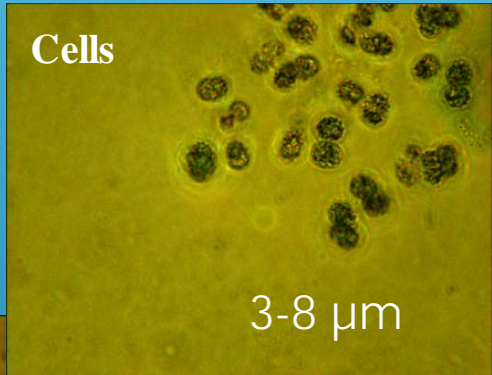
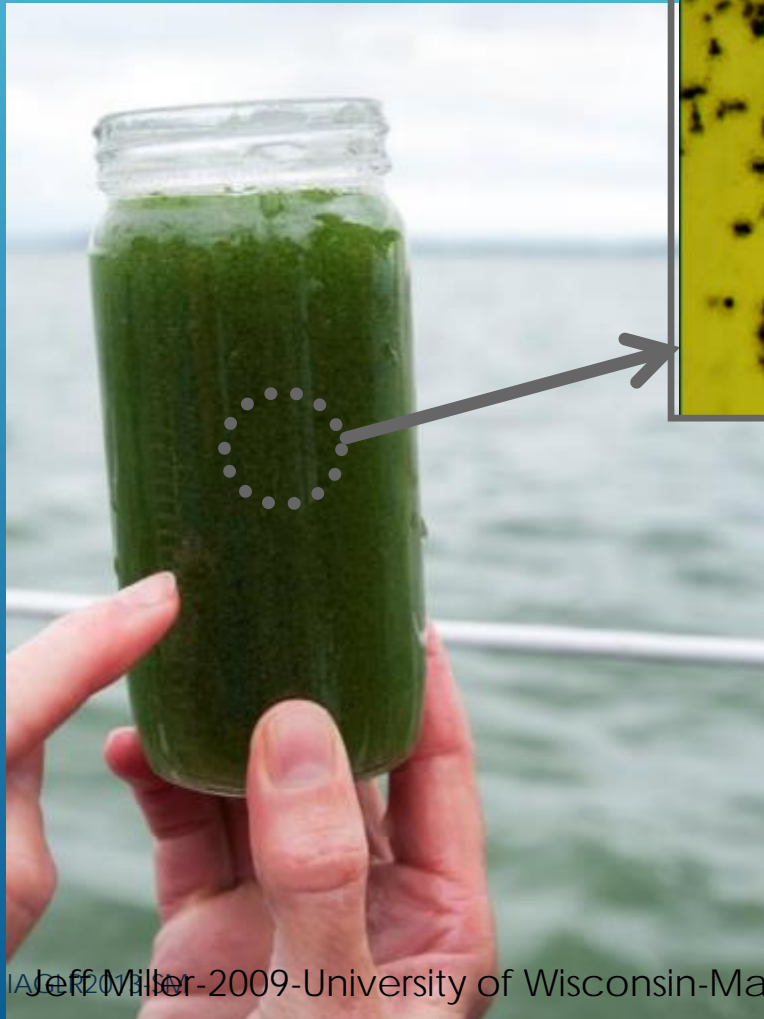
PHYLUM

GENUS

SPECIES

**CYANOBACTERIA**  
***AERUGINOSA***

***MICROCYSTIS***



# MICROCYSTIS - HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM

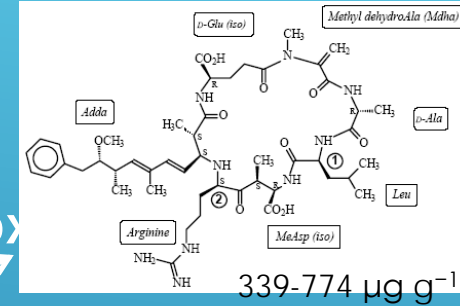
Rapid growth → blooms → scums → issues



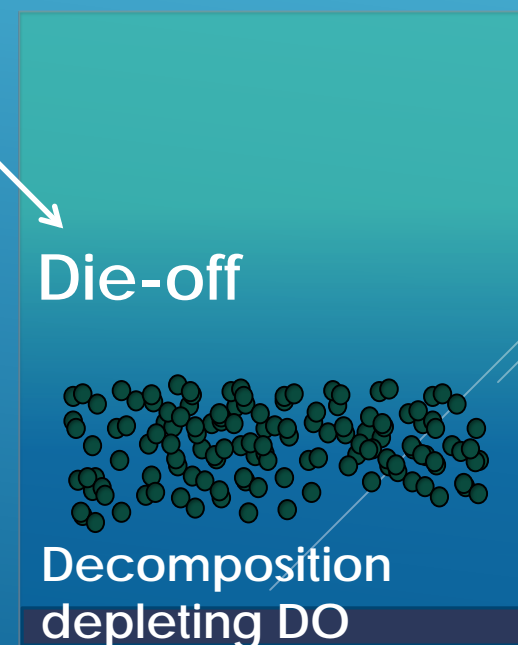
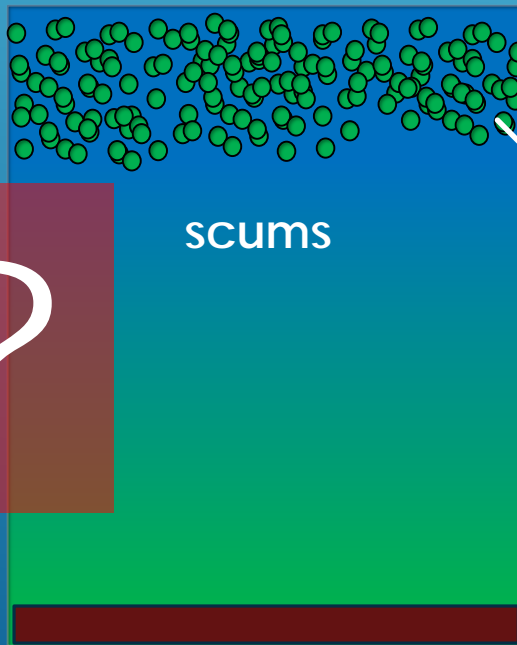
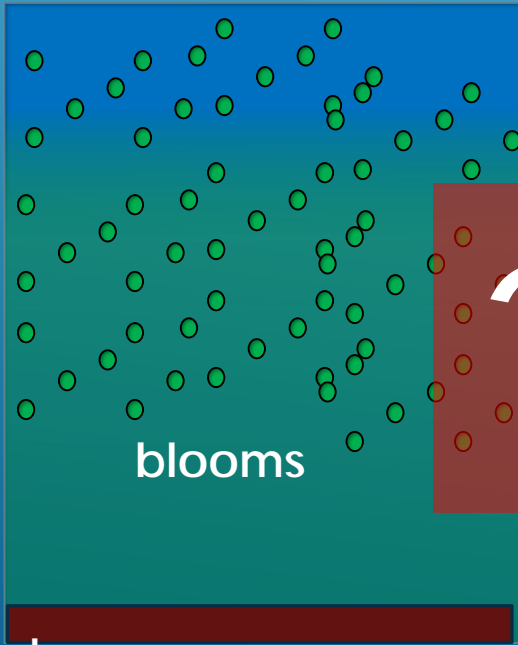
$\sim > 3 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

$\sim < 2-3 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

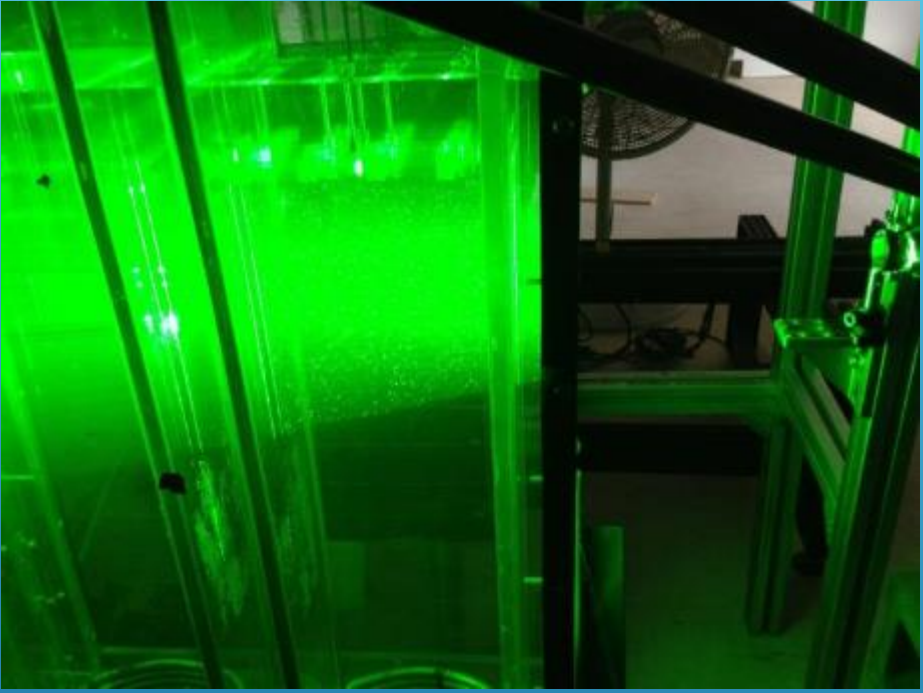
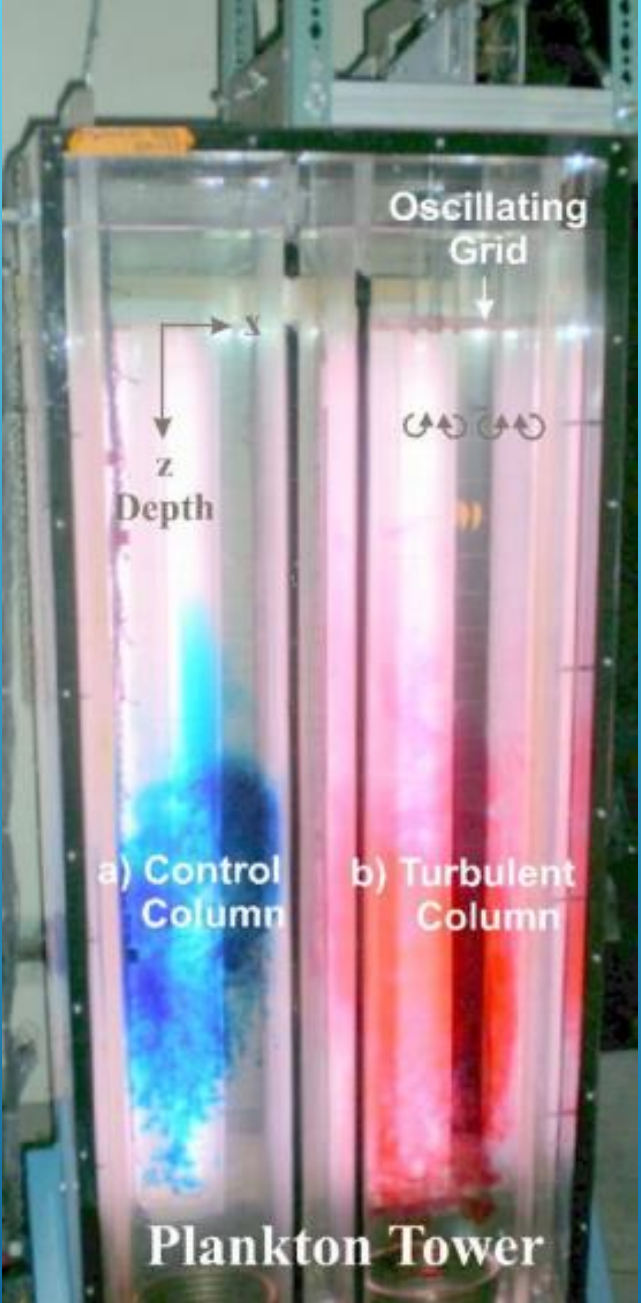
Tox



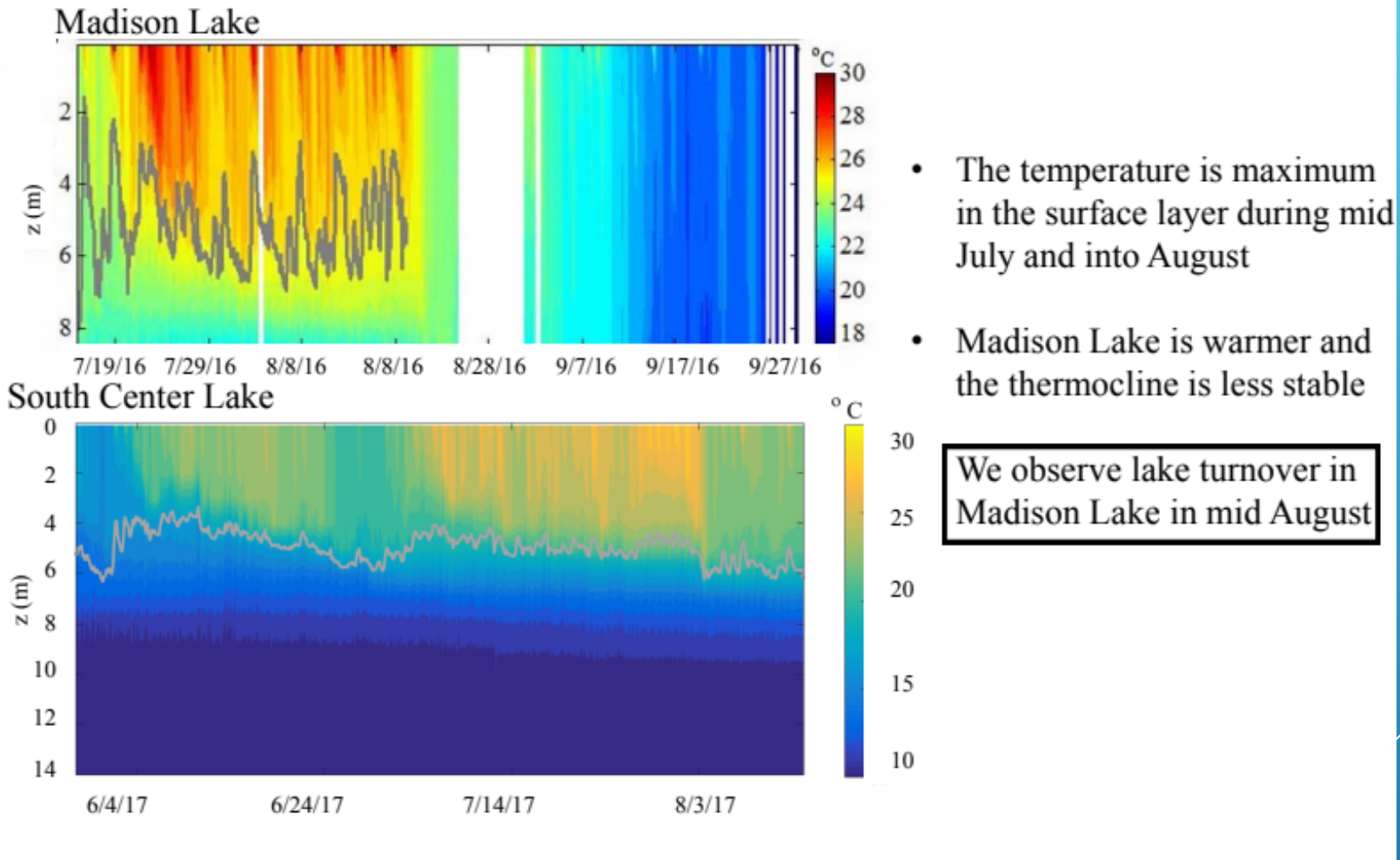
Surface water



sediment



# Lake Physical Lake Conditions

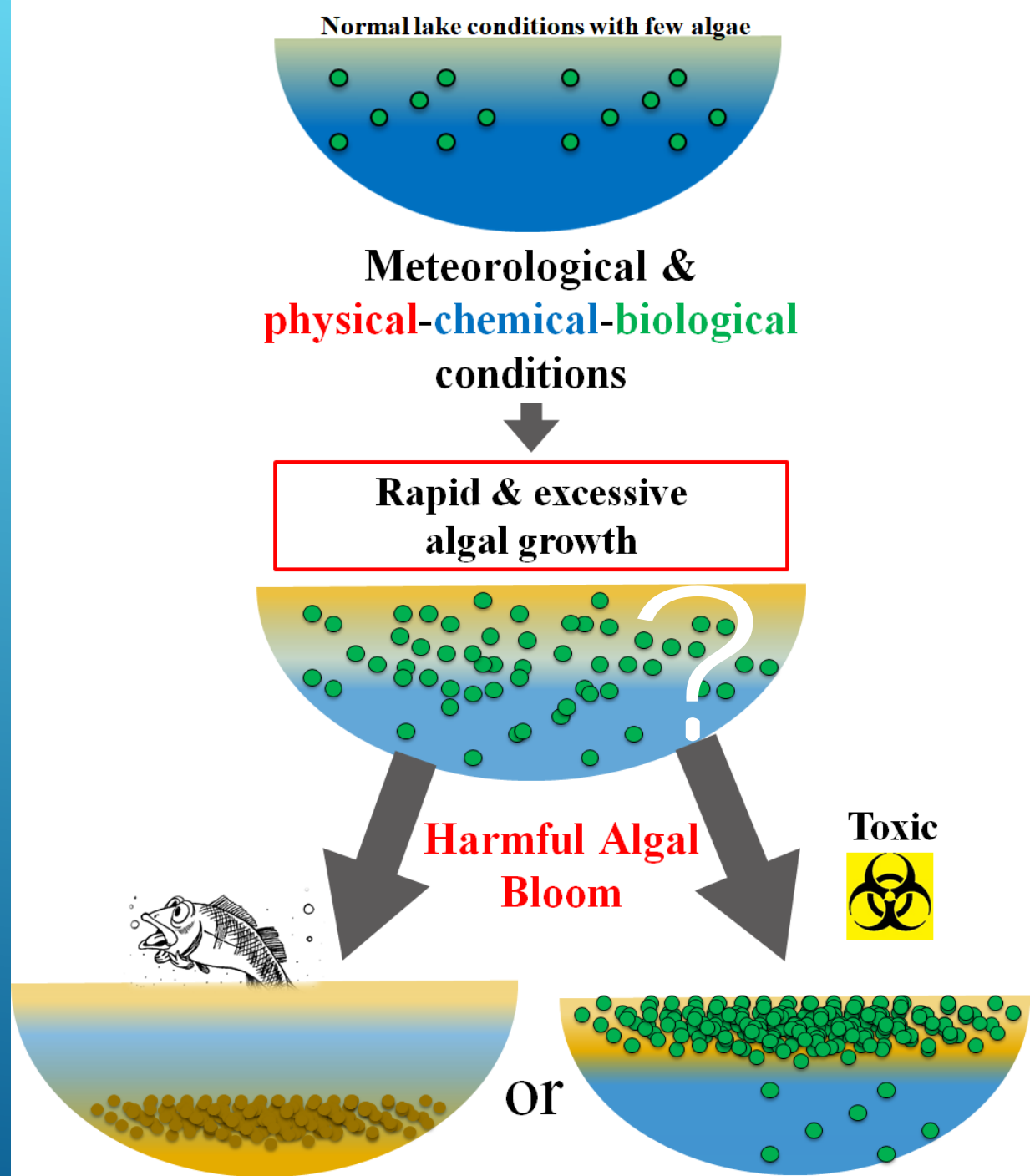


Researchers: Anne Wilkinson & Jackie Taylor at SAFL

# Solutions



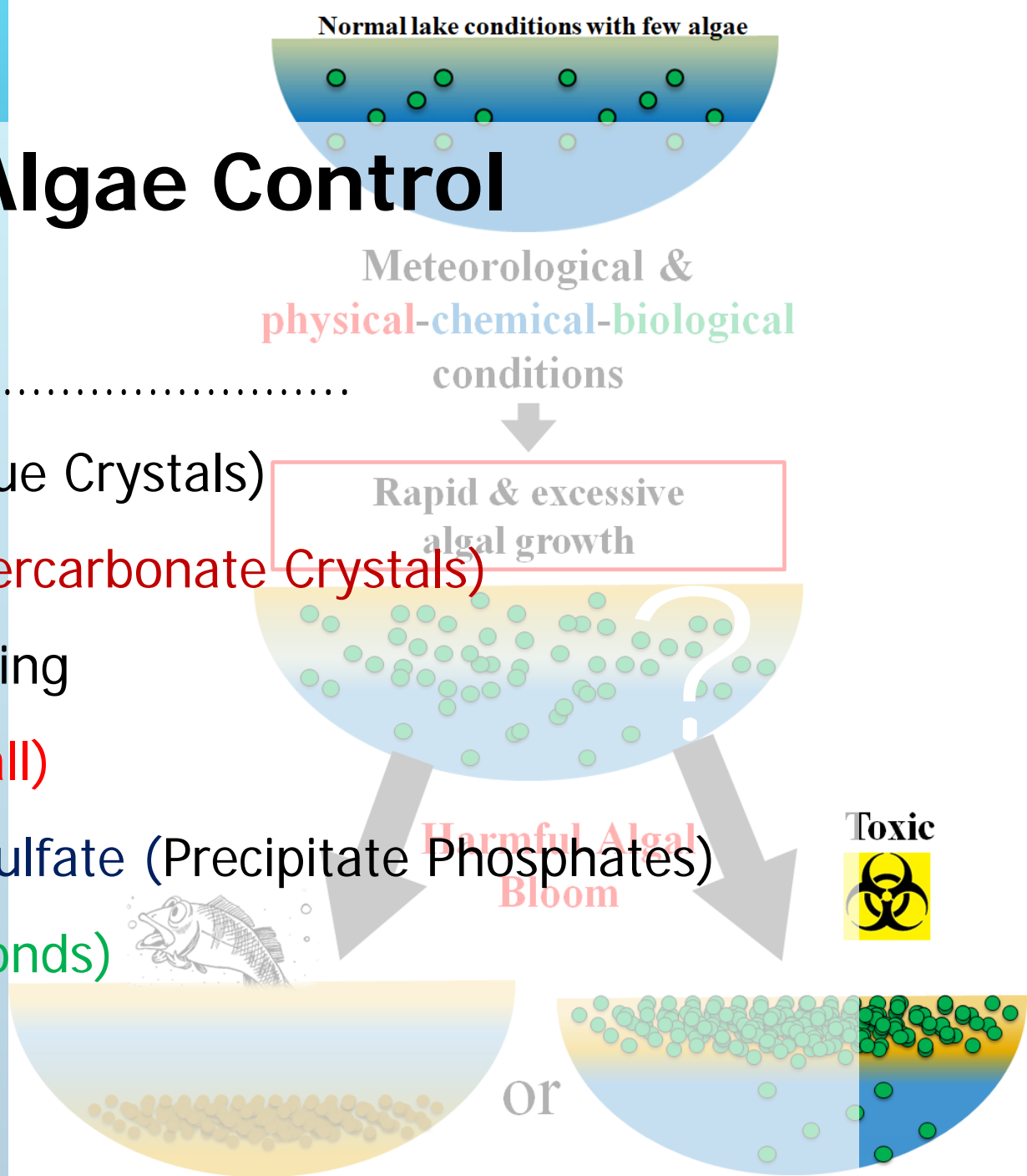
# Solutions



# Solutions

## Examples of Algae Control Methods

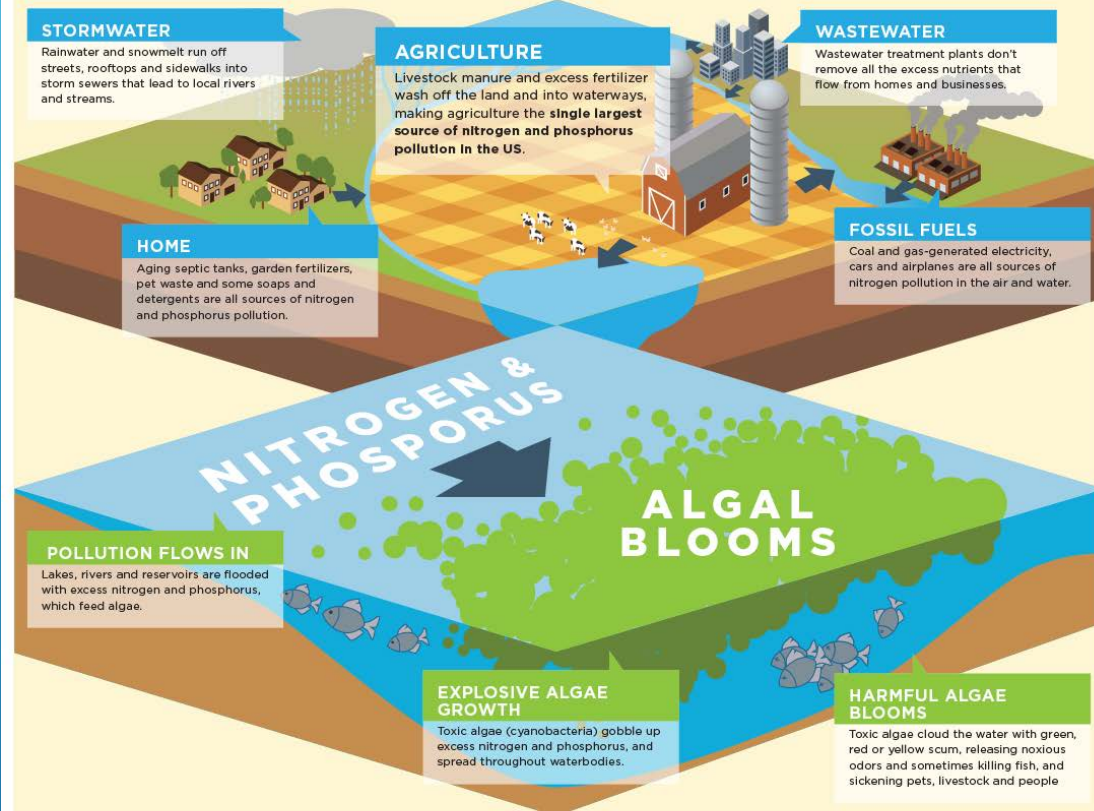
- .....
- **Copper Sulfate** (Blue Crystals)
- **Peroxide** (Sodium Percarbonate Crystals)
- **Pond Dyes** For Shading
- **Herbicides** (Endothall)
- **Alum** or Aluminum Sulfate (Precipitate Phosphates)
- **Ultraviolet** (smaller ponds)
- **barley straw**,
- .....





# Solutions

## TOXIC ALGAE STARTS UPSTREAM



### TOXIC ALGAE IMPACTS: WARNING DO NOT...



**DRINK**

Contaminated water can make people & animals ill



**FISH**

Handling exposed fish is dangerous



**SWIM**

People and pets risk illness by entering contaminated water



**SMELL**

Emits noxious, unpleasant fumes



**EAT**

Eating exposed fish can cause illness



**HAVE FUN**

People and pets should avoid all recreation in affected waters

## WETLAND CONSERVATION

### Solutions

Protecting wetlands from development and agriculture can maintain a healthy environment for fish, wildlife & plants, and make it harder for toxic algae to take hold.

## AQUATIC BUFFERS

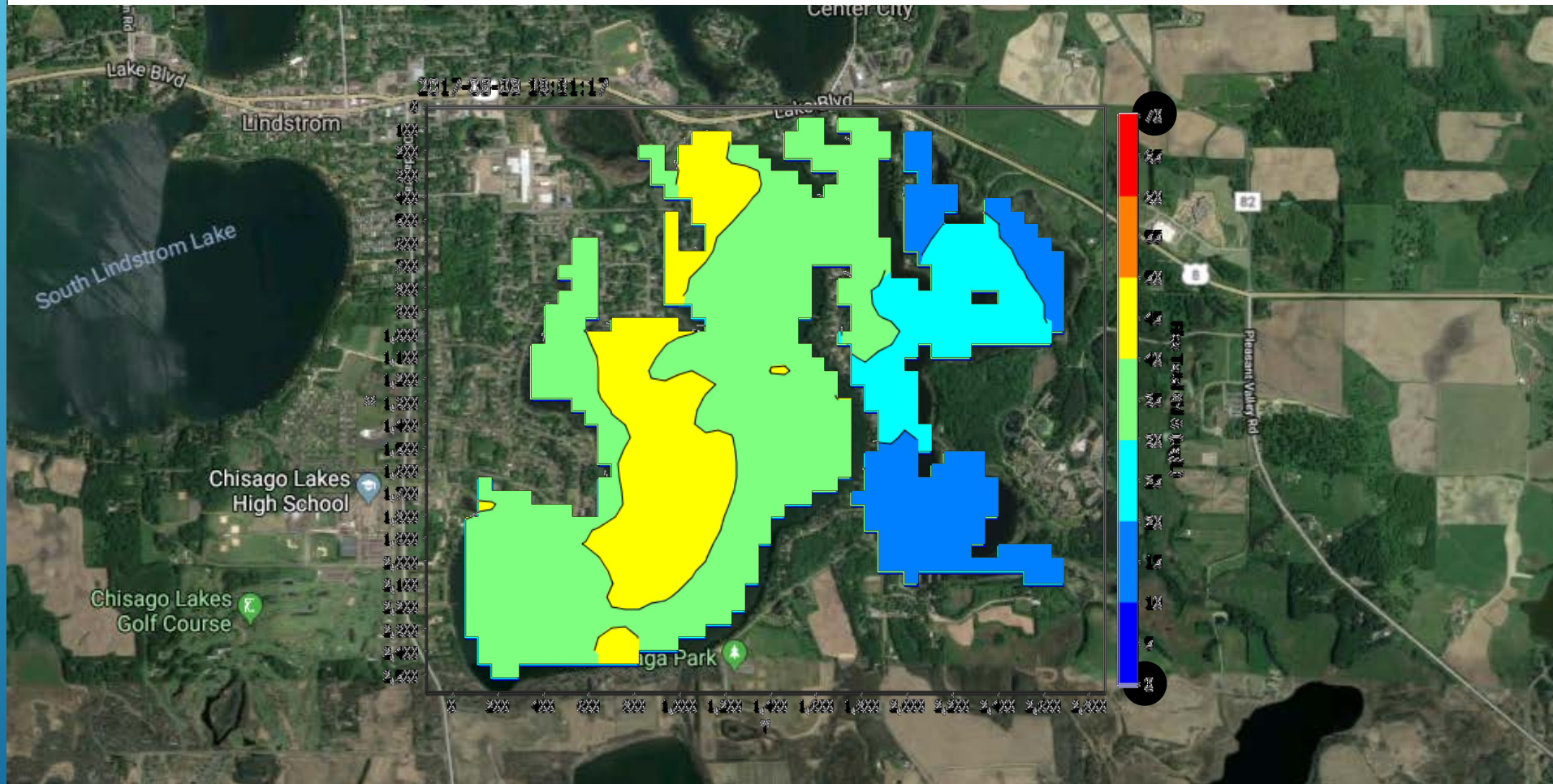
Creating and maintaining natural buffers - using trees, shrubs and other plants - between farmland, development and waterways can help filter out excess nitrogen and phosphorus before they reach the water.

## COVER CROPS

By planting farmland with cover crops instead of leaving the land bare between cash crops, farmers can protect soil from erosion and absorb excess fertilizer, helping to keep nutrients out of nearby waterways.



# Ultimately: to be ready for (prediction) HABs



Then we can measure associated health & economical costs

# WATER WARNING



## AVOID CONTACT WITH THE WATER

This water contains a blue-green algal bloom that can be harmful to humans and pets.

### For your safety:

- Do not swim, waterski, or tube in the water.
- Avoid swallowing water.
- Stay away from areas of scum when boating.





HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS  
Potential Water Quality Challenges  
Harmful Algal Bloom Research

THANK YOU

Shahram Missaghi  
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Monday, March 18, 2019 | 4:00 p.m. - 6:00  
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# Algae bloom toxin linked to Alzheimer's, other diseases

BY AMY KRAFT  
JANUARY 21, 2016

## Algae bloom toxin linked to Alzheimer's, other diseases

BY AMY KRAFT  
JANUARY 21, 2016 / 3:32 PM / CBS NEWS

In the  
and co  
diseas  
notice

In the late 1990s, Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D., an ethnobotanist currently at the Institute for EthnoMedicine in Jackson Hole, Wyo. and colleagues, began traveling to the Pacific island of Guam to interview Chamorro villagers who were suffering from a disease that was similar to Parkinson's, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and Alzheimer's disease. The mysterious illness was first noticed by the U.S. military in the 1950's. Yet 20 years of research didn't turn up any clues.



# Algae bloom toxin linked to Alzheimer's, other diseases

BY AMY KRAFT

JANUARY 21, 2016 / 3:32 PM / CBS NEWS

Harmful Algae 54 (2016) 194–212

In the late 1990s, researchers and colleagues discovered a disease that was first noticed by the



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Harmful Algae

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/hal](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/hal)



### Review

## Health impacts from cyanobacteria harmful algae blooms: Implications for the North American Great Lakes

Wayne W. Carmichael<sup>a,\*</sup>, Gregory L. Boyer<sup>b</sup>

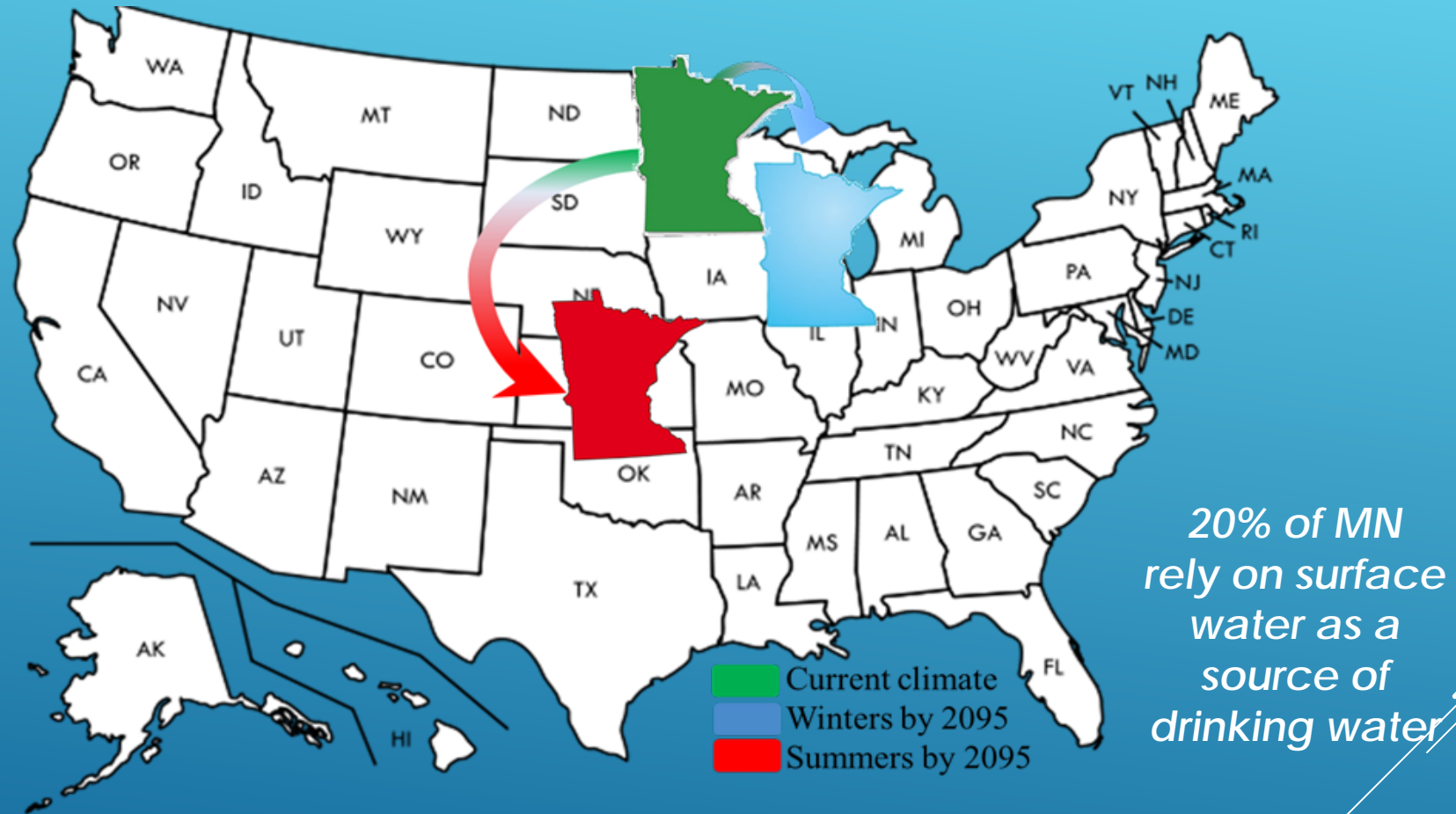
<sup>a</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435, USA

<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, State University of New York—College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210, USA



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illness  
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spect.

# Why does it matter?

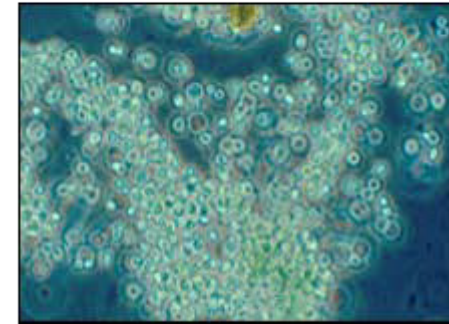
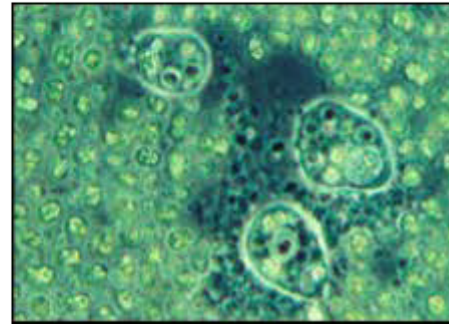


**Motivation:** Mobilizing MN communities to fight HABs & become resilient

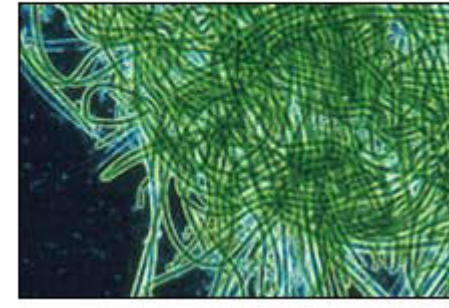
# “Annie, Fannie, and Mike”

## Blue Greens

- Unicellular, (non-N<sub>2</sub> fixing)  
*Microcystis*\*, *Gomphosphaeria*  
**Mike**



- Filamentous, non-heterocystous  
(mostly non-N<sub>2</sub> fixing)  
*Lyngbya*\*, *Oscillatoria*\*



### Annie

- Filamentous, heterocystous (N<sub>2</sub> fixing)  
*Anabaena*\*, *Aphanizomenon*\*,  
*Cylindrospermopsis*\*, **Fannie**  
*Nodularia*\*



\* Contains Toxic strains



# Solutions

## Examples of Algae Control Methods

- .....
- **Copper Sulfate** (Blue Crystals)
- **Peroxide** (Sodium Percarbonate Crystals)
- **Pond Dyes** For Shading
- **Herbicides** (Endothall)
- **Alum** or Aluminum Sulfate (Precipitate Phosphates)
- **Ultraviolet** (smaller ponds)
- **barley straw**,

# What we know:

## The problem

### **Toxins produced by freshwater planktonic cyanobacteria**

<b>Toxin type</b>	<b>Primary organ affected</b>	<b>Produced</b>
<b>microcystins</b>	<b>liver</b>	<i>Microcystis</i> <i>Anabaena</i> <i>Oscillatoria</i>
<b>anatoxins</b>	<b>nervous</b>	<i>Anabaena</i> <i>Aphanizomenon</i> <i>Oscillatoria</i>
<b>saxitoxins</b>	<b>nervous system</b>	<i>Anabaena</i> <i>Aphanizomenon</i> <i>Cylindrospermopsis</i>
<b>cylindrospermopsins</b>	<b>liver</b>	<i>Cylindrospermopsis</i> <i>Aphanizomenon</i>
<b>LPS</b>	<b>skin irritant</b>	

Plankton  
(floating)

ZooPlankton  
(heterotroph)

PhytoPlankton

Planktonic algae

(autotroph; primary producers)

(bacteria) Blue-green algae

(not very tasty to Zoos - HAB)

other algae .....

# What we know: The problem

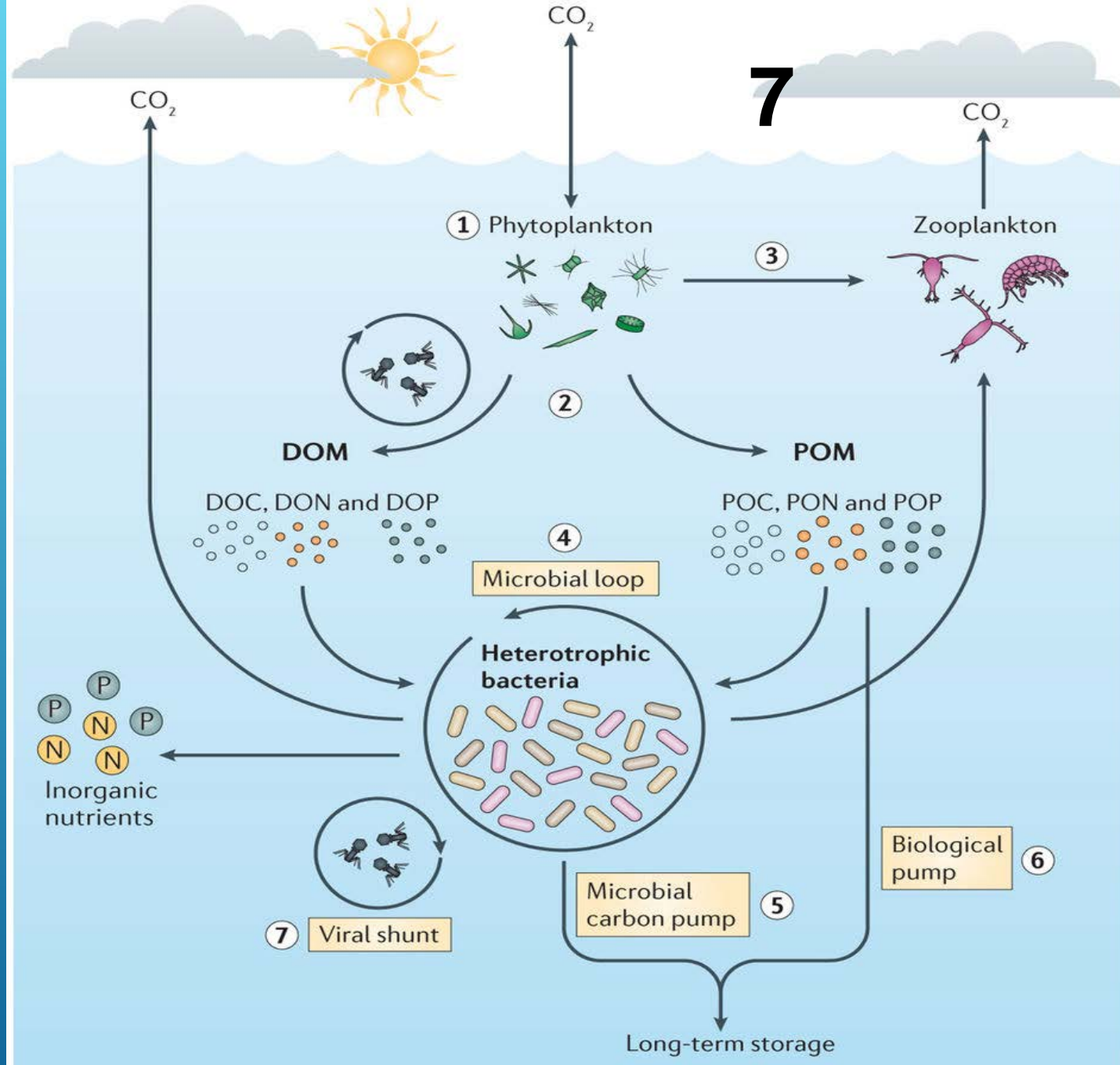
Relative Probability of Acute Health Effects	Cyanobacteria (cells/mL)	Microcystin-LR ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Chlorophyll-a ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
Low	< 20,000	<10	<10
Moderate	20,000-100,000	10-20	10-50
High	100,000-10,000,000	20-2,000	50-5,000
Very High	> 10,000,000	>2,000	>5,000

<https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/guidelines-and-recommendations#what3>

# *Microcystis* - Harmful Algae Bloom

TOXIN	ACUTE EFFECT	SYMPTOMS
Anatoxin-a	Neurotoxicity	Not documented
Anatoxin-a (s)	Neurotoxicity	Not documented
Cylindrospermopsin	Hepatotoxicity, renal toxicity, chromosome breakage, aneuploidy	Enlarged liver, malaise, anorexia, vomiting, headache.
Microcystin	Hepatotoxicity	Paresthesia and numbness of lips and mouth within ½ to 3 hours after exposure, extending to face, neck, extremities; motor weakness; incoordination; respiratory and muscular paralysis.

# Altering the Microbial loop









# WATER QUALITY IN RAMSEY COUNTY

John Manske

Environmental Services, Lake Management





# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM RISK ASSESSMENT

- Based on the research of Steve Heiskary Et al. from the MPCA (5)
- pH > 9.0
- Secchi < 0.5 m
- Cyanobacteria Concentration > 100,000 cells/mL
- Chl A Concentration > 50mg/m<sup>3</sup>

# RAMSEY COUNTY LAKE MANAGEMENT LABORATORY

Phosphorus (All forms)

Nitrogen (All forms)

Chloride

Chlorophyll A

Turbidity

Phytoplankton

Zooplankton

Zebra Mussel Veliger

Total Hardness

Total Alkalinity

Total Nonfilterable Residue

Volatile Nonfilterable Residue

*E. coli*

eDNA

LAKE	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
BALD EAGLE	B	A	A	B	C	C	C
BEAVER	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
BENNETT	C	C	C	C	C	D	D
COMO	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
CROSBY	C	C	C	C	D	C	C
GERVAIS	B	B	B	B	C	C	C
ISLAND NORTH	C	C	C	C	B	B	N/A
ISLAND SOUTH	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
JOHANNA	B	B	B	A	B	B	B
JOSEPHINE	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
KELLER	B	B	B	B	C	B	C
KOHLMAN	C	B	B	B	C	C	C
LITTLE CROSBY	C	B	B	C	D	B	B
LOEB	A	A	A	B	B	A	A
LONG NORTH	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
LONG SOUTH	C	B	B	C	C	C	C
MCCARRON	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
OTTER	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
OWASSO	B	B	B	B	B	C	C
PHALEN	A	A	A	A	B	B	B
ROUND(NR PHALEN)	B	A	A	B	C	B	B
SILVER E	C	C	C	C	C	D	D
SILVER W	C	C	C	B	C	C	C
SNAIL	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
TURTLE	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
TWIN	B	B	B	B	C	B	B
WABASSO	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
WAKEFIELD	D	C	C	D	C	C	C
WHITE BEAR	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

April 16, 2018

## By the Numbers at MSP

**0**

Number of days that have been above normal so far this April

**15.8**

Storm total snowfall at MSP

**15.9**

Monthly temperature departure below normal

**26.1**

April monthly snowfall at MSP, new record (21.8" 1983)

**37.0**

Today's forecast high temperature

**58.0**

Today's normal high temperature

**78.3**

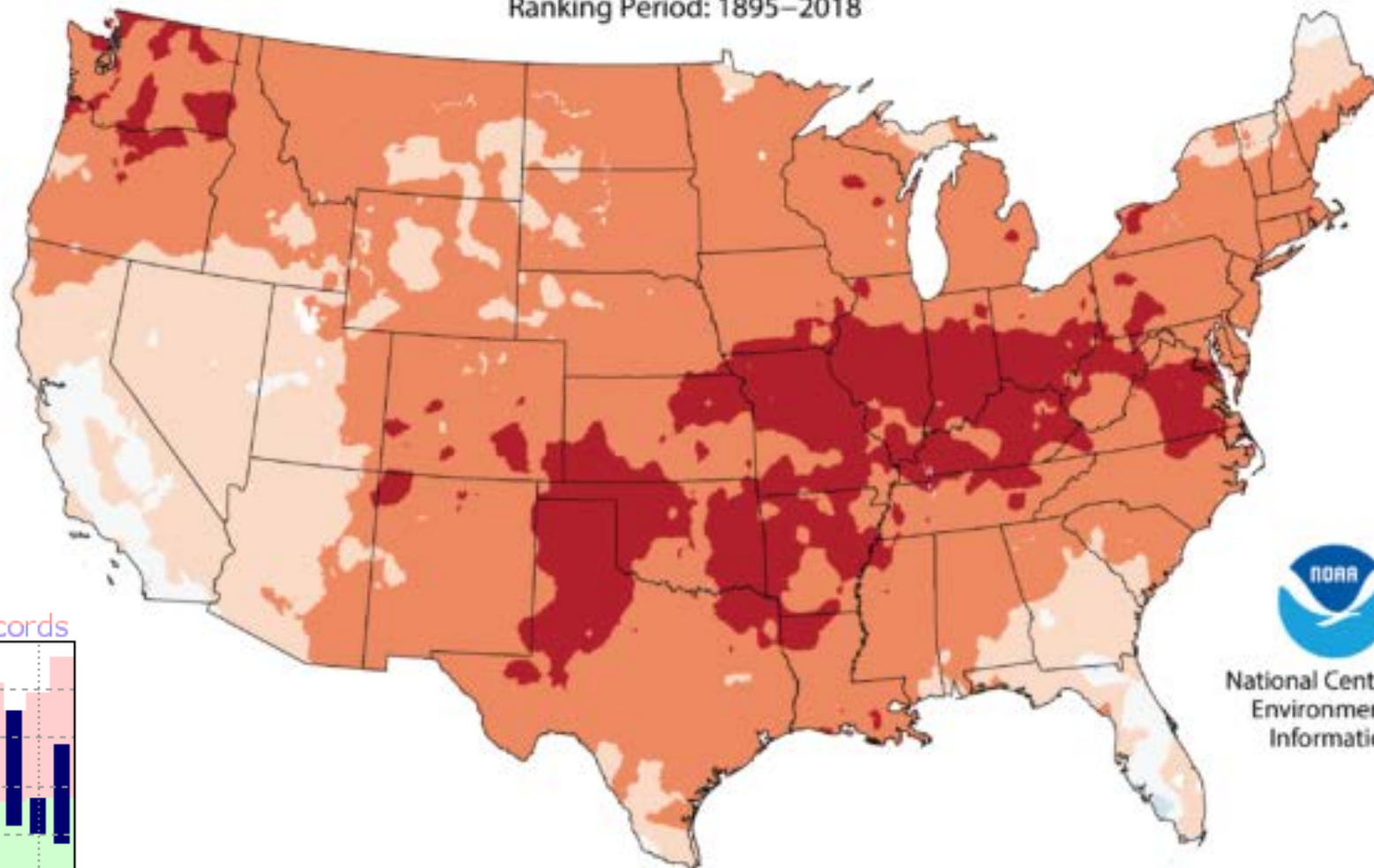
Inches of snow so far this season



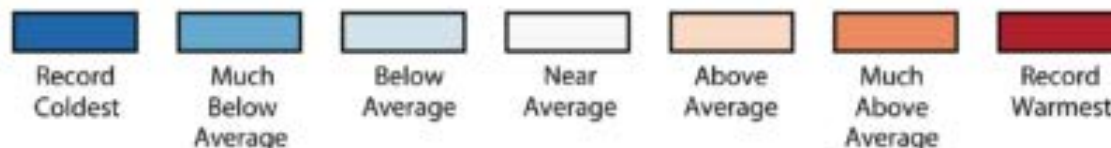
# Mean Temperature Percentiles

May 2018

Ranking Period: 1895–2018



National Centers for  
Environmental  
Information



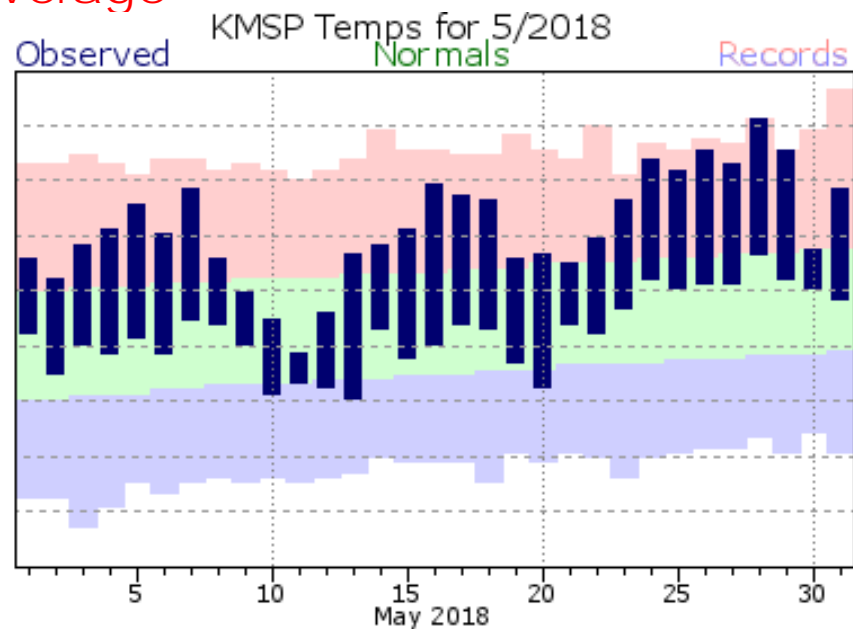
Jun 04 2018

Data Source: 5km Gridded Dataset (nClimGrid)

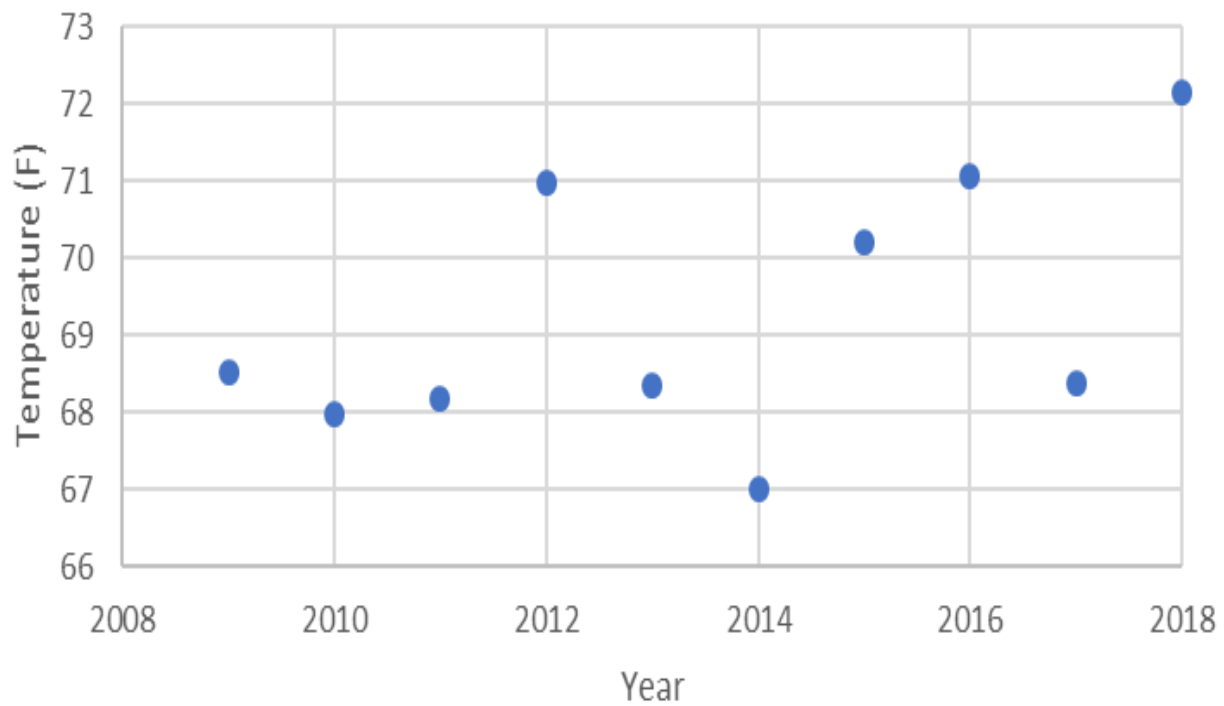
## Records set in May 2018

- Warmest Mean Temperature in USA
- 6 days above 90°F in the Twin Cities
- Earliest 100°F day in the Twin Cities (May 28<sup>th</sup>)

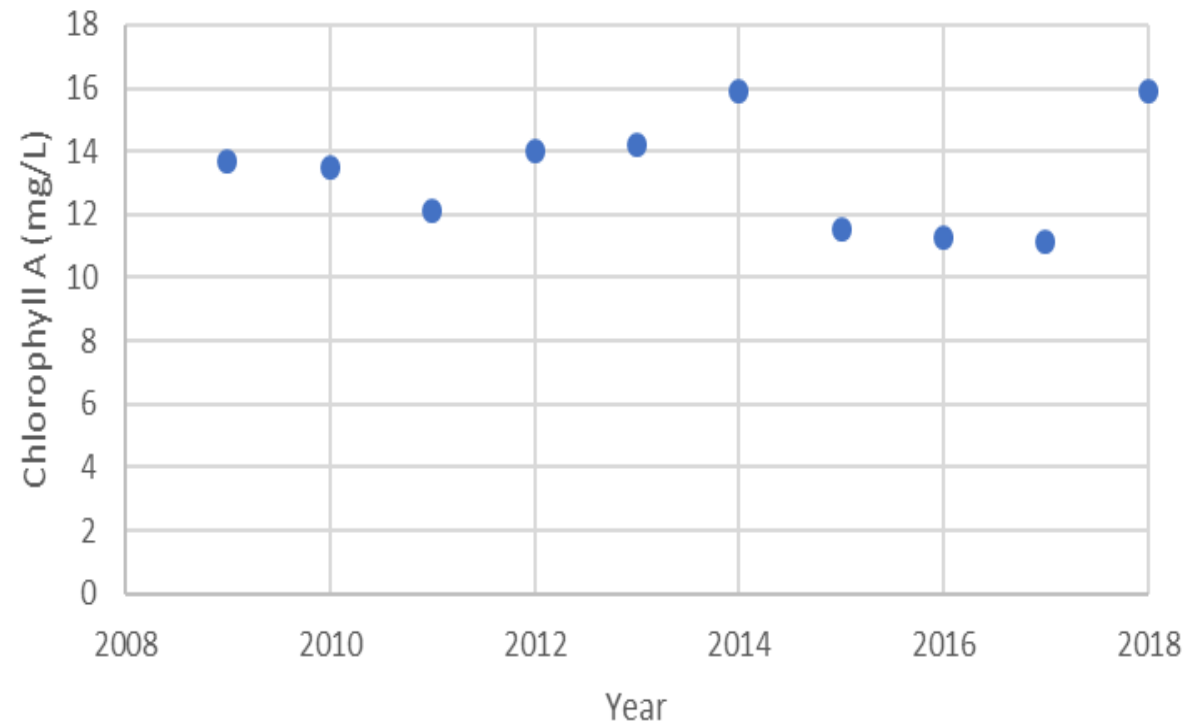
Twin Cities were 8.7°F above average



Average Temperature in the epilimnion of all Ramsey County lakes monitored May-Sept

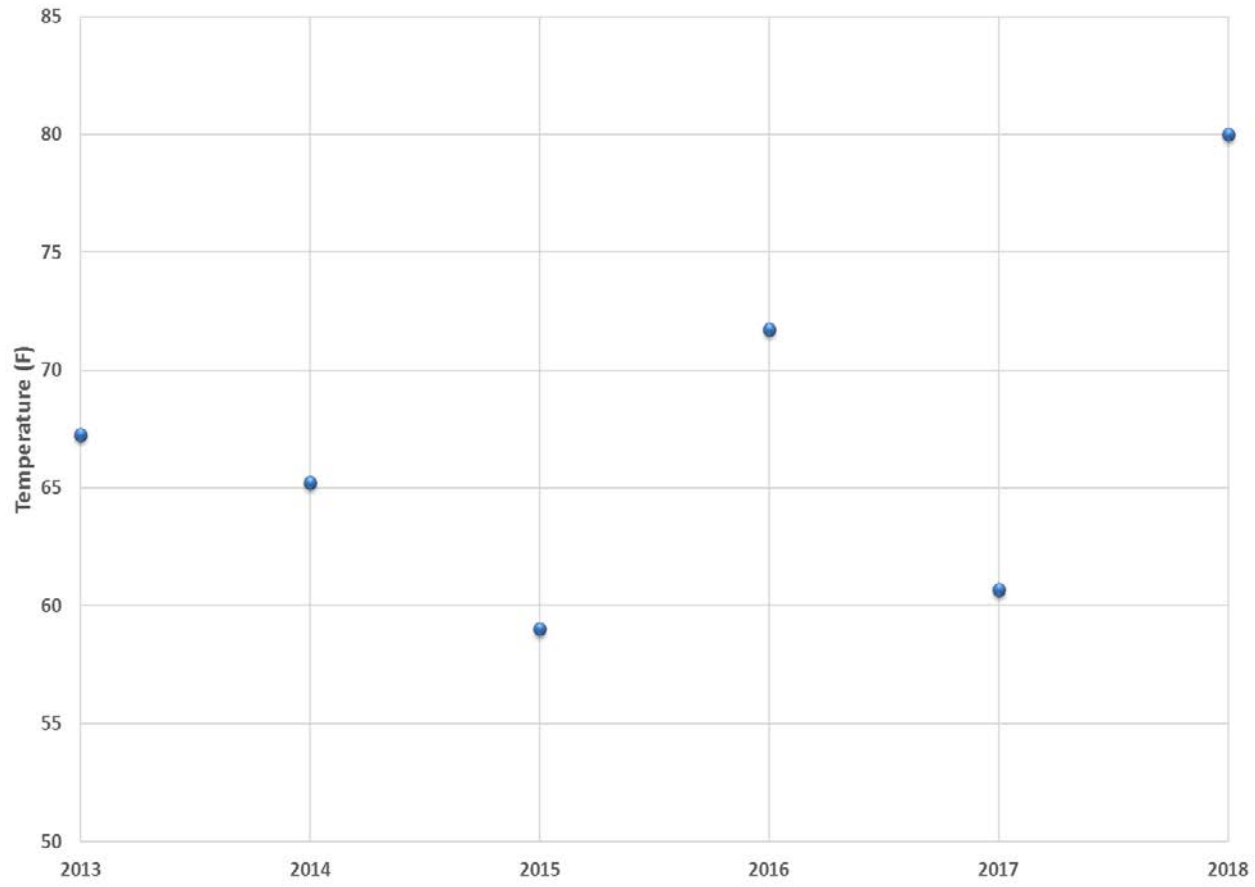


Average Chlorophyll A in the epilimnion of all RC lakes May-Sept

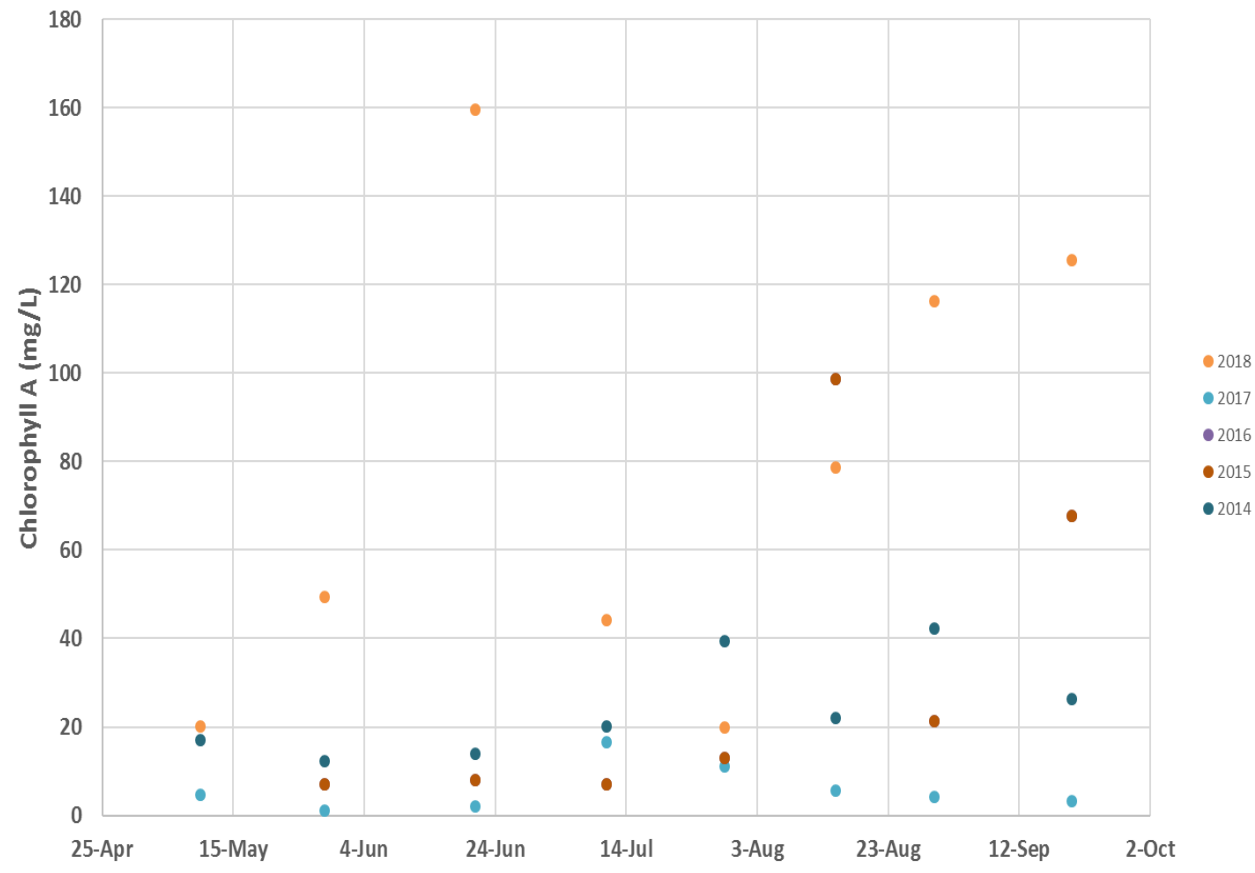




### Wakefield Surface Water Temperature in Late May



### Wakefield Surface Chlorophyll A



# BALD EAGLE ALUMINUM SULFATE TREATMENT



Project Engineer:



Contractor:



Treatment 1: 2014

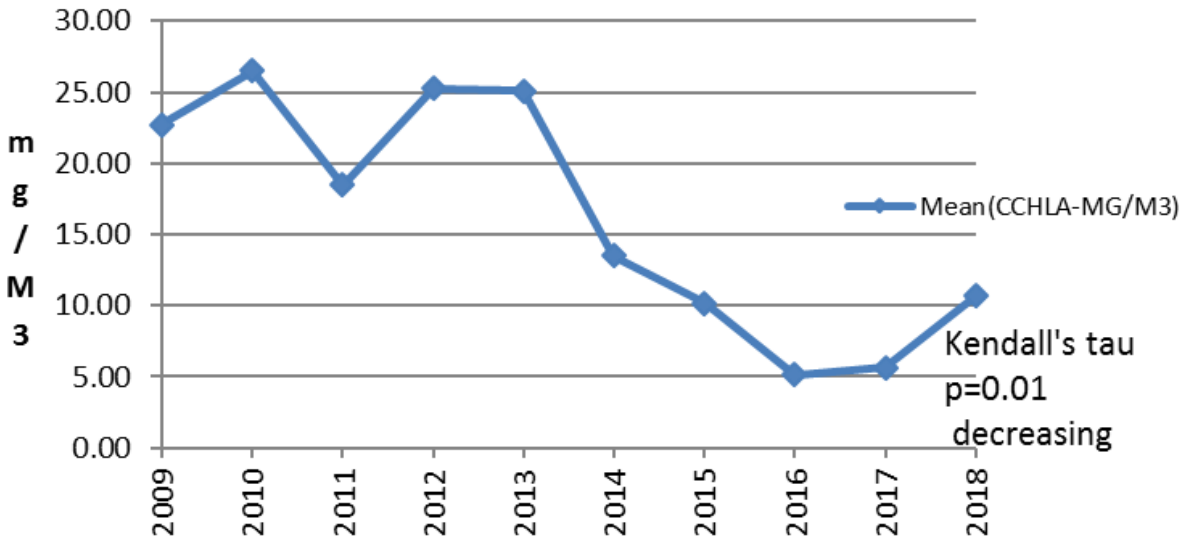
Treatment 2: 2016

The largest alum treatment in MN

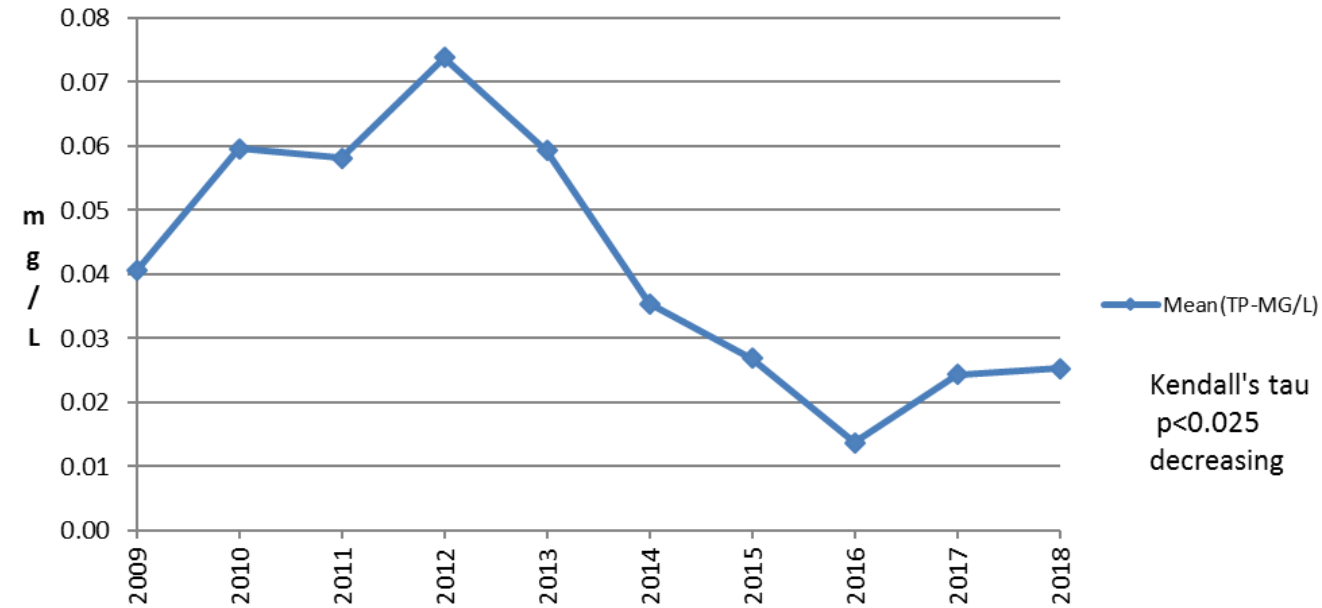




## Bald Eagle ChIA

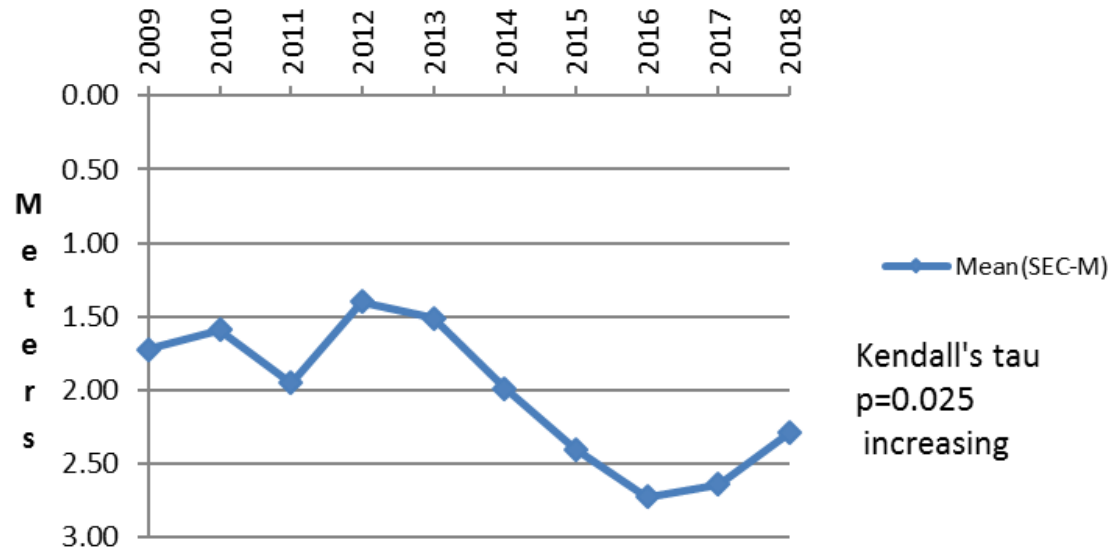


## Bald Eagle TP



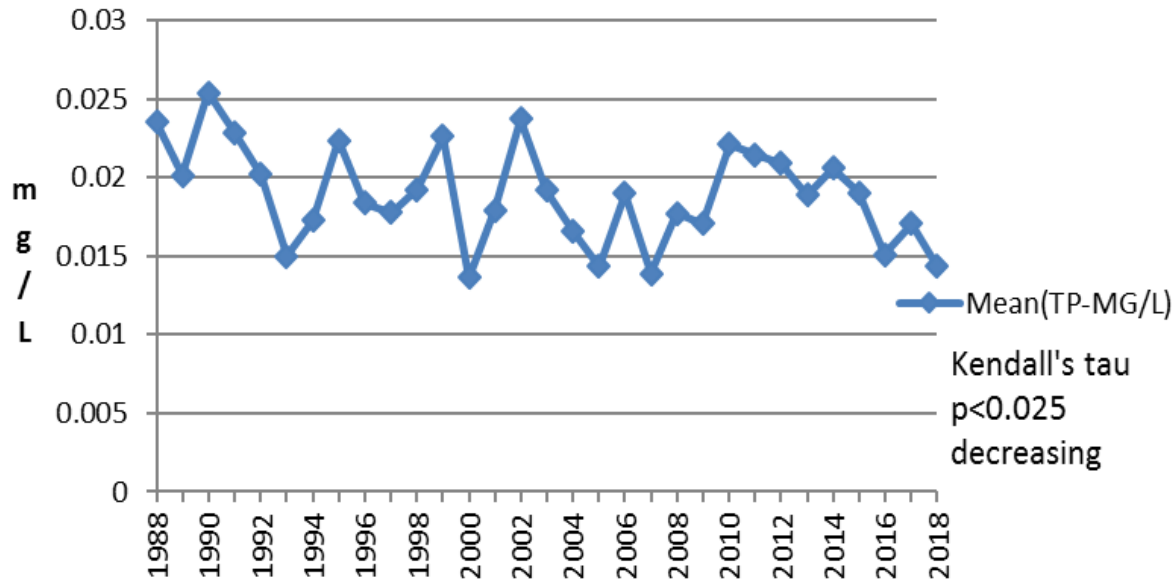
Note: 2014 + 2016  
Alum treatments

## Bald Eagle Secchi

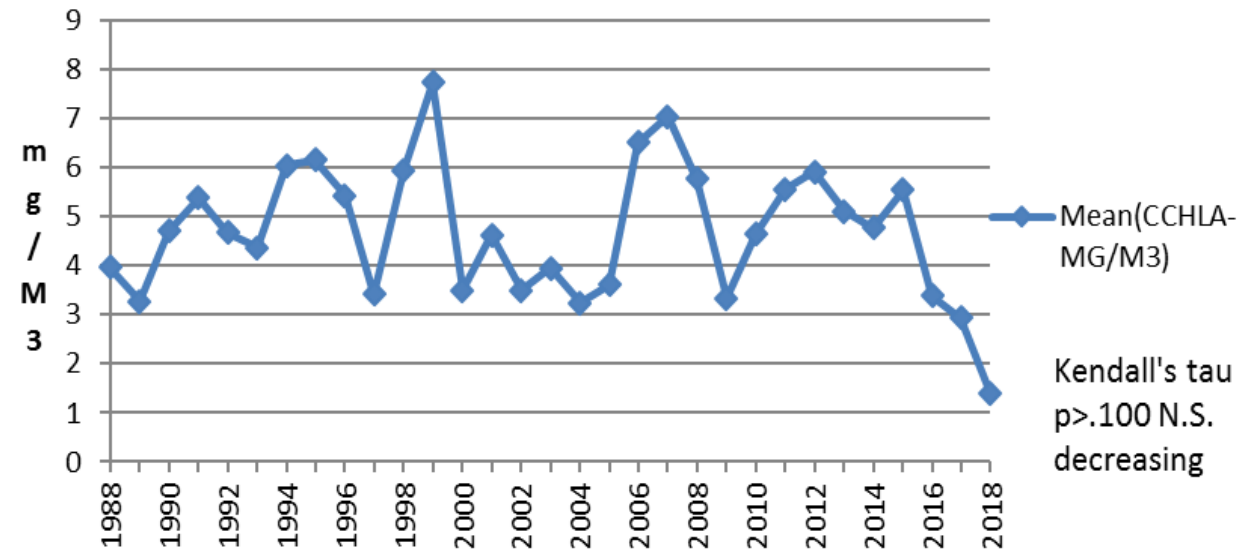


[Link to Alum Treatment Project Page](#)

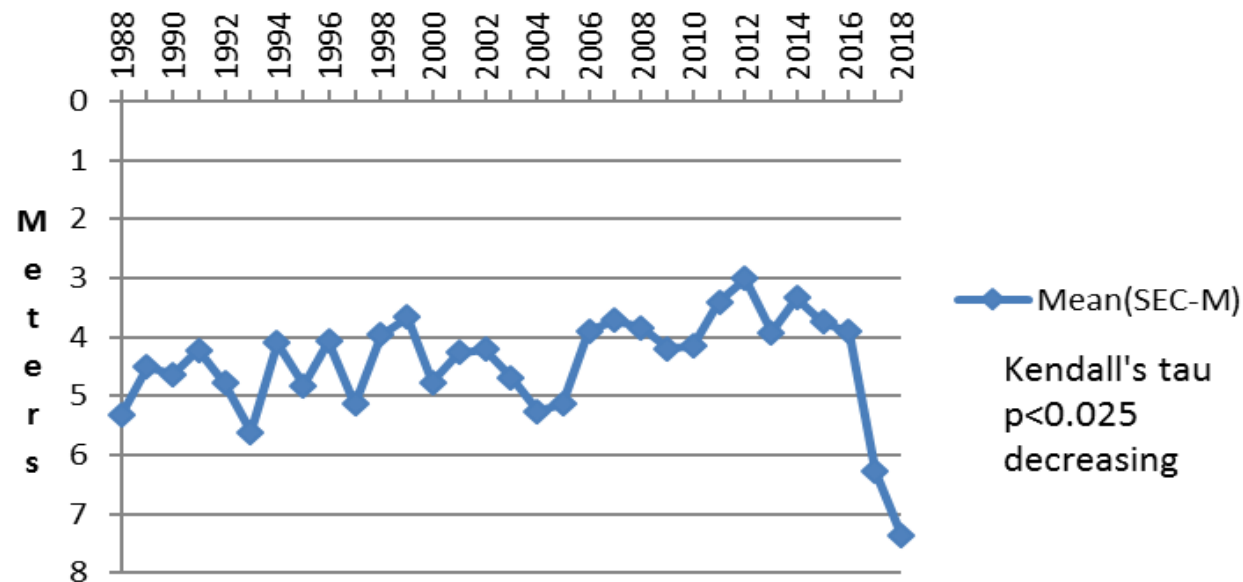
### White Bear Total Phosphorus



### White Bear Chlorophyll A



### White Bear Secchi



Note: 2014 Zebra Mussel infestation confirmed

# RAMSEY COUNTY LAKE MANAGEMENT WINTER MONITORING PROGRAM

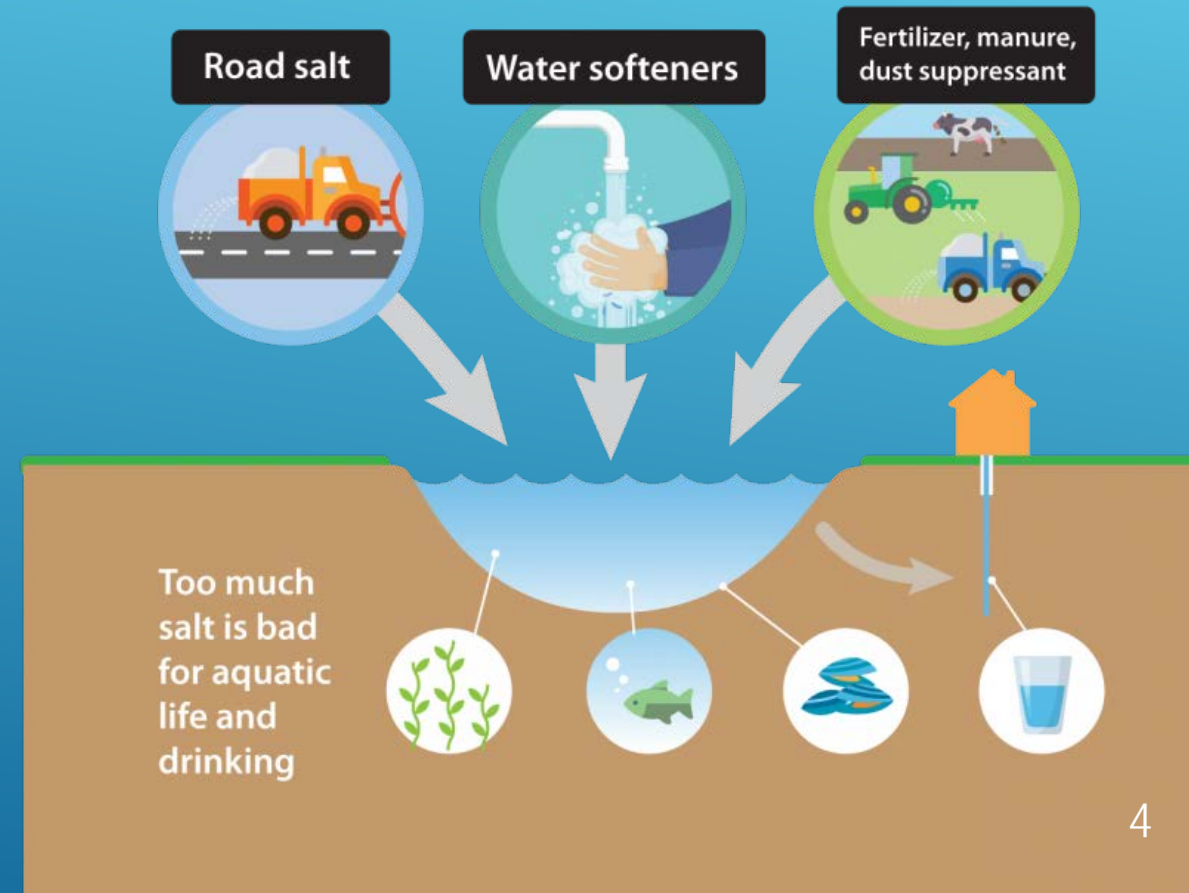
- ▶ Dissolved oxygen monitoring/aerating
  - ▶ Como, Owasso, Island, Otter, Silver East, Beaver
- ▶ Chloride monitoring
  - ▶ Worked with MPCA to establish a state water quality standard for chloride. [TCMA Chloride Project Link](#)
  - ▶ A large number of lakes were categorized as impaired for aquatic life, or at high risk of becoming impaired.

# WHERE DOES CHLORIDE COME FROM ?

- Ramsey County uses 16,000,000 lbs/year to deice roads
- 700,000,000 lbs/year used in the Twin Cities Metro Area (1)
- 78% of this chloride is transported to surface or ground water in the TCMA

Table 1. Summary of annual road salt application amounts

User	Use (Tons)	Use %
MNDOT	80,797	23%
Counties	70,284	20%
Cities	114,314	33%
Commercial Bulk	66,349	19%
Packaged	17,460	5%
Total	349,204	100%



# WHY IS CHLORIDE SO BAD?

- It takes only one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water.
- There's no easy way to remove salt from water.
- Causes osmotic stress to organisms
- Decreases the biodiversity of sediment organisms and plants(2)
- Increases the release and transport of heavy metals(3)
- 30% of wells in TCMA had chloride concentrations above the chronic water quality standard.
- Corrosive to most surfaces



### Average chloride concentration when exceeding 230 mg/L

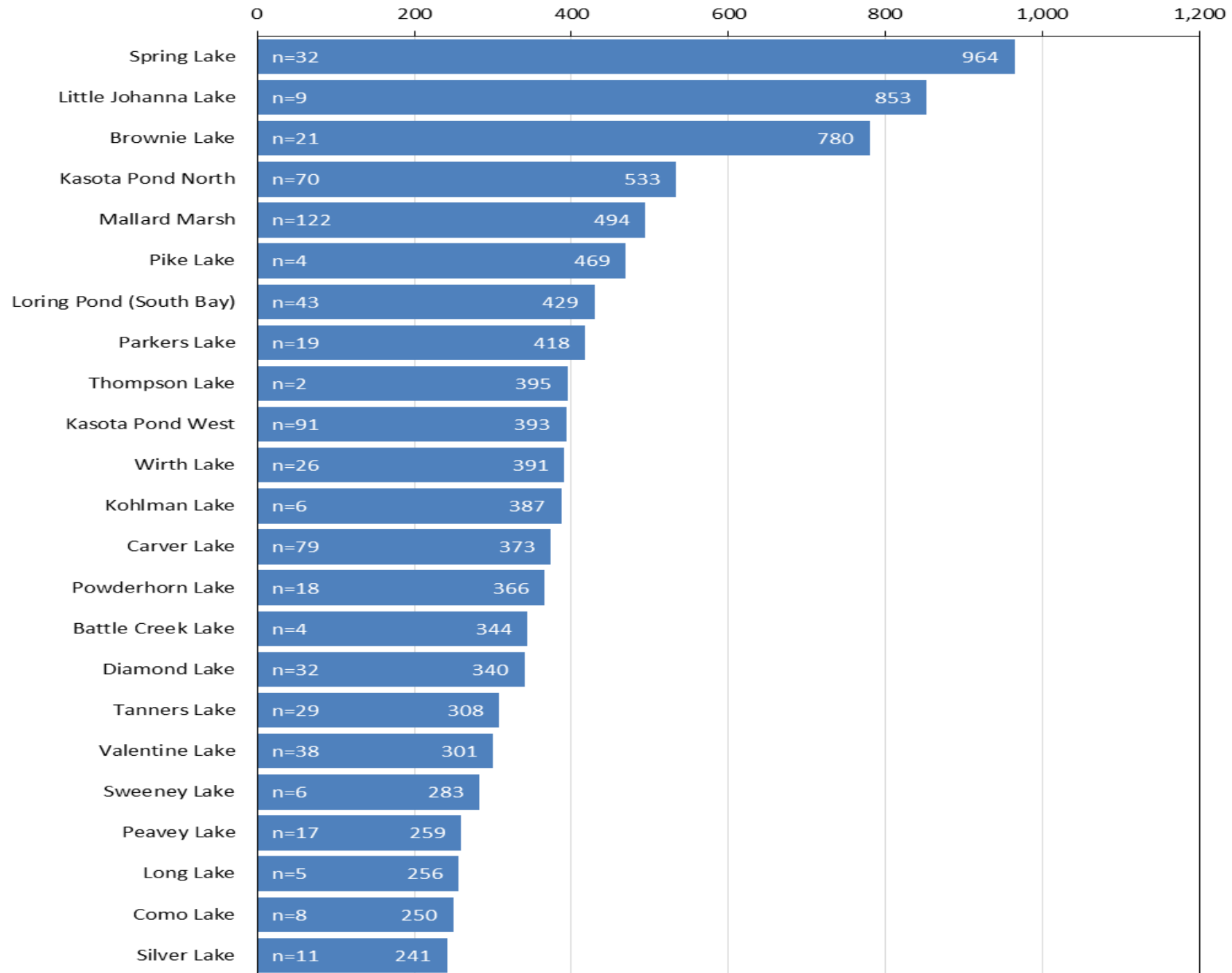
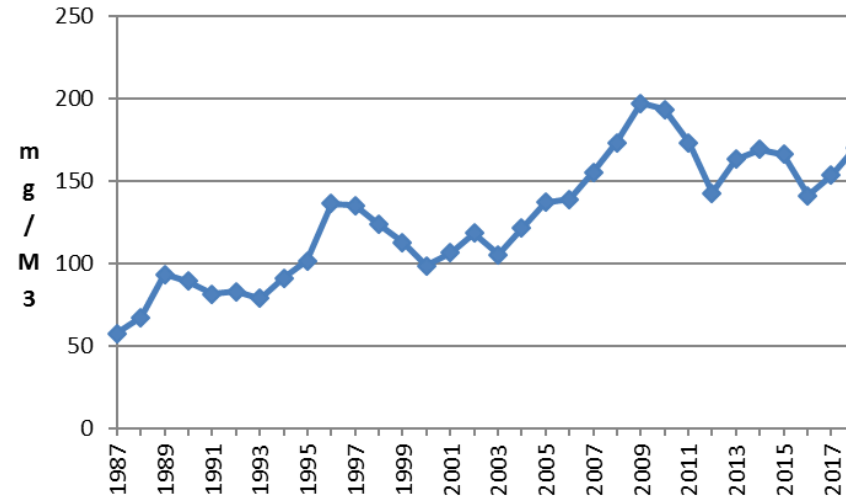


Table 2.TCMA Chloride Management Plan - MPCA 2015

# LAKES WITH A HIGH RISK OF CHLORIDE IMPAIRMENT

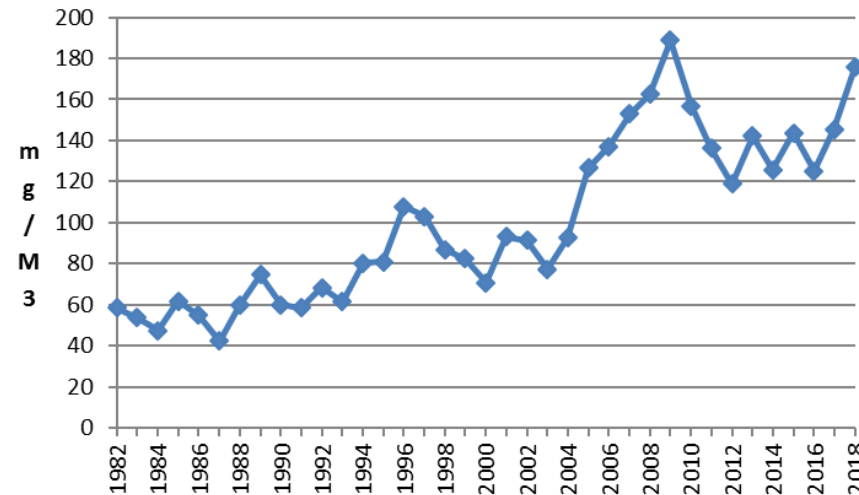
- Beaver
- Bennett
- Crosby ★
- Gervais ★
- Johanna ★
- Keller
- McCarrons
- Wabasso
- Wakefield ★

### Johanna Chloride Concentration in Surface Water



Kendall's tau  
 $p < .005$   
increasing

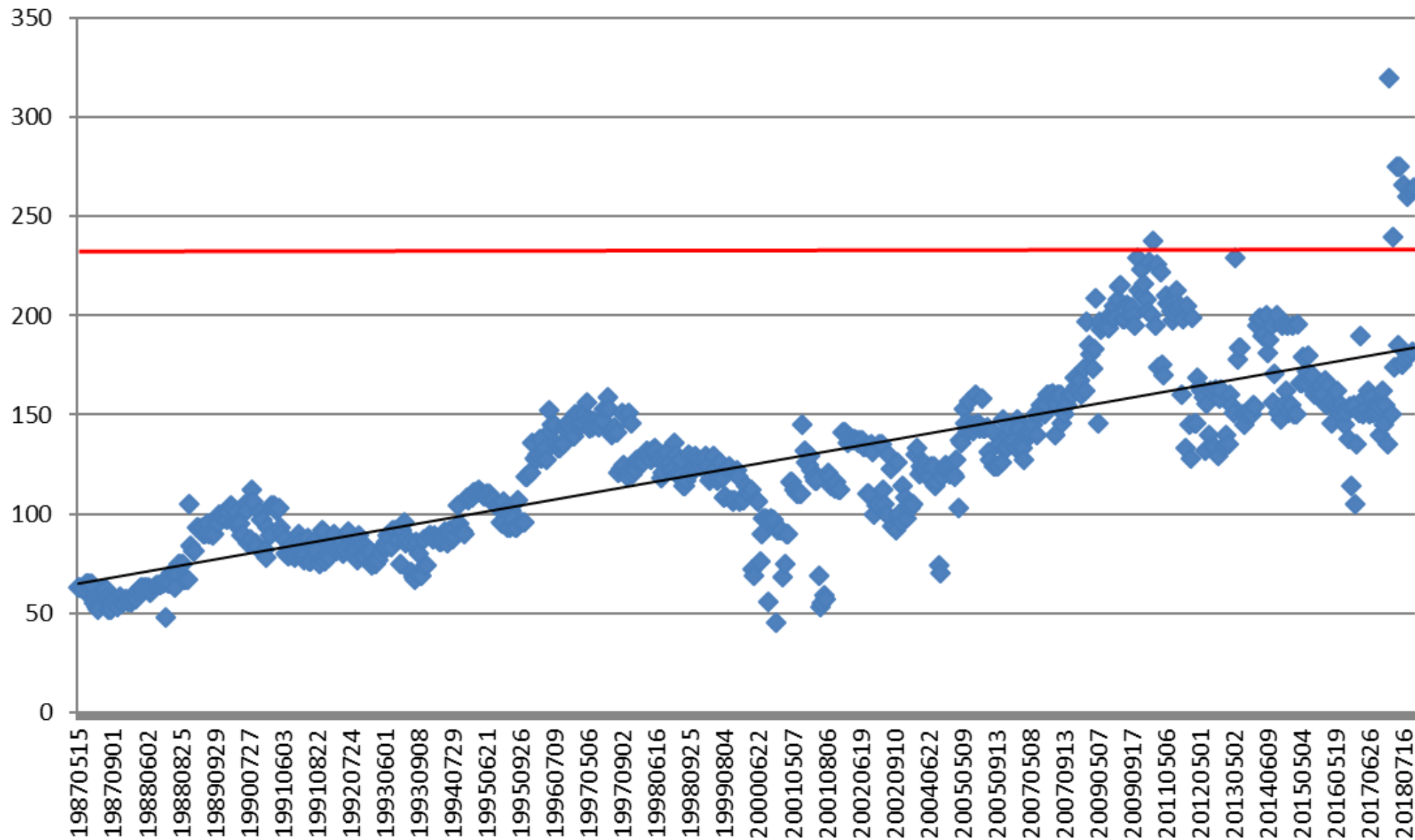
### Gervais Chloride Concentration in Surface Water



Kendall's tau  
 $p < .005$   
increasing

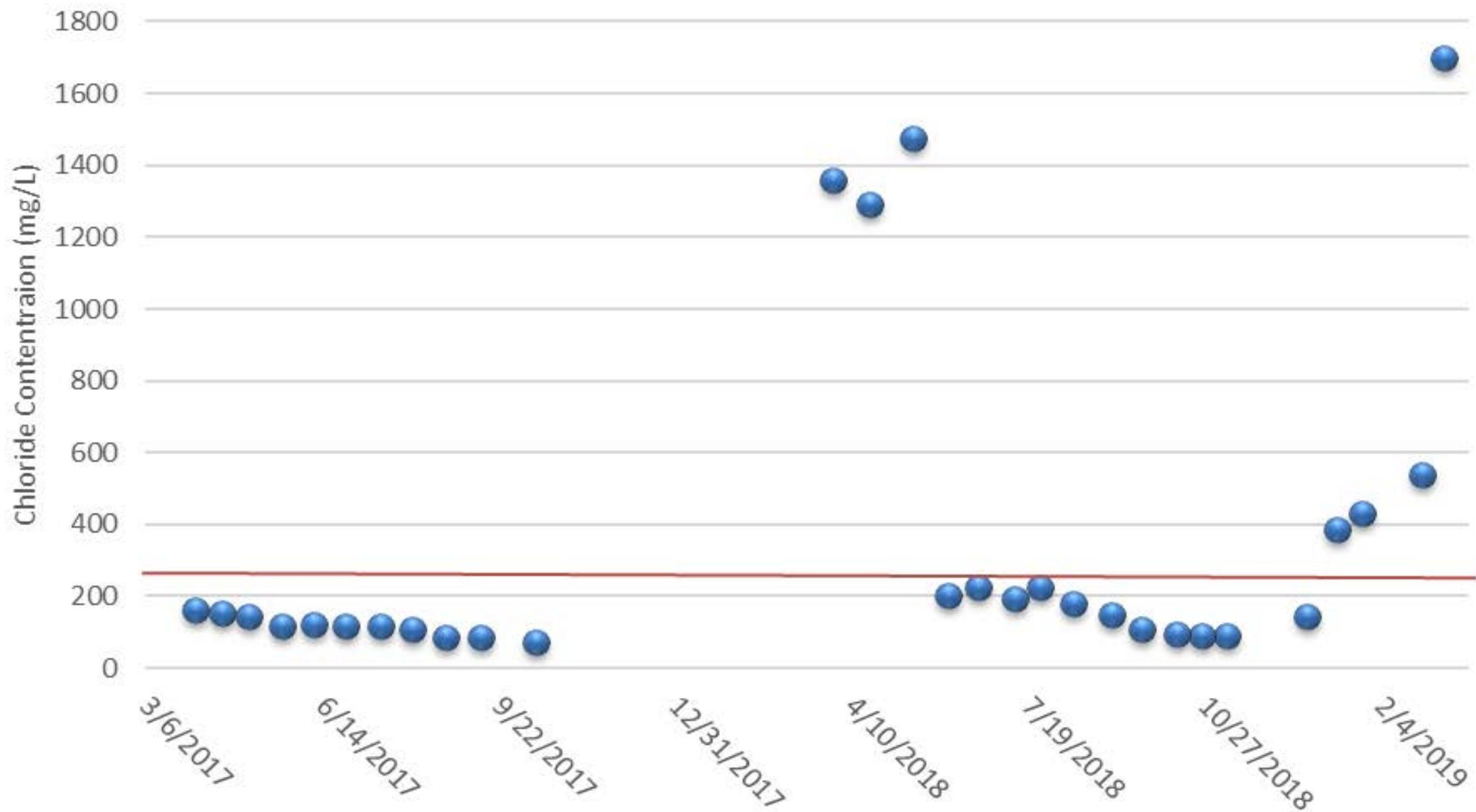
# Johanna Lake Chloride Concentraion 1987 - 2018

Chloride Concentrations (mg/L)



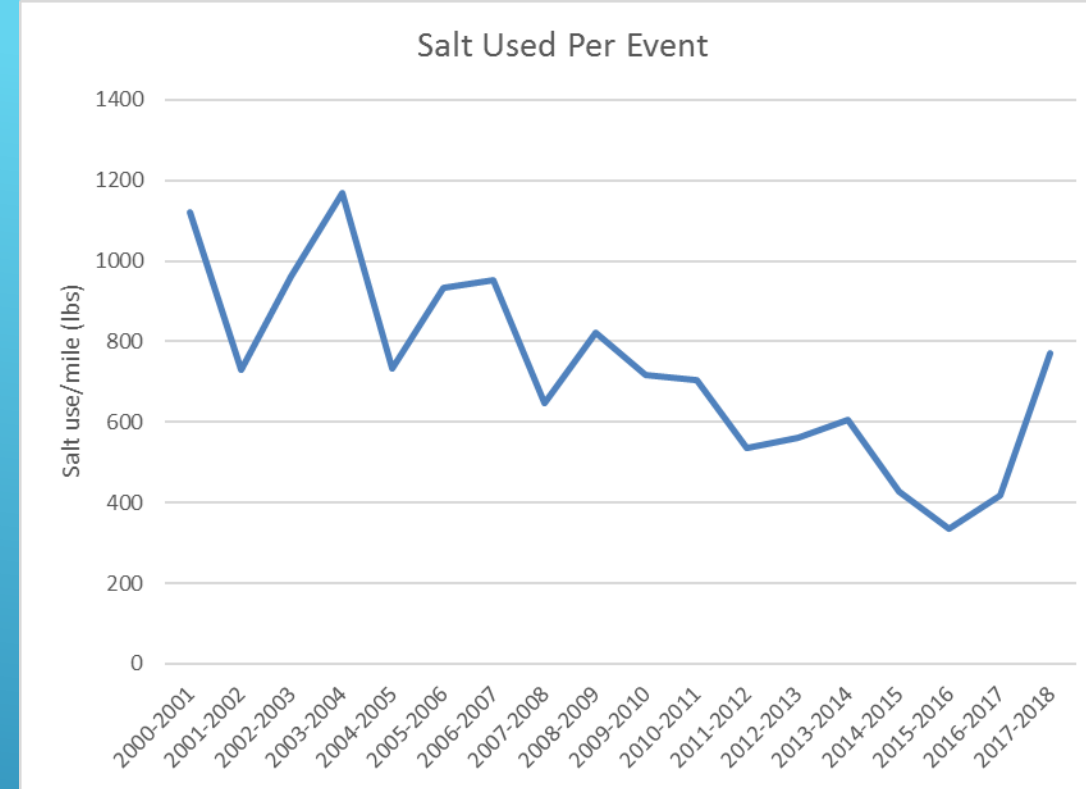
Impaired for Chloride above 230 mg/L

# Como Chloride Concentration



# WHAT IS RAMSEY COUNTY DOING

- Set goals to decrease salt usage
- Track usage of salt with calibrated dispensers
- Prevent ice buildup by shoveling and plowing more often, or with better equipment.
  - Ramsey County recently purchased tungsten carbide plow blades for our trucks to improve ice and snow removal (\$145,000)
- MPCA Smart Salt Applying Training and Tools
- Use Salt brine when conditions allow
- Sweep up excess salt and reuse



# Great Online Resources

Improved Winter Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water

MN Key Water Info List

<http://es.metc.state.mn.us/KeyWaterList/#SurfaceWater>

Surface Water Data – MPCA

<http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/index.cfm>

Road Salt and Water Quality - MPCA

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-salts>

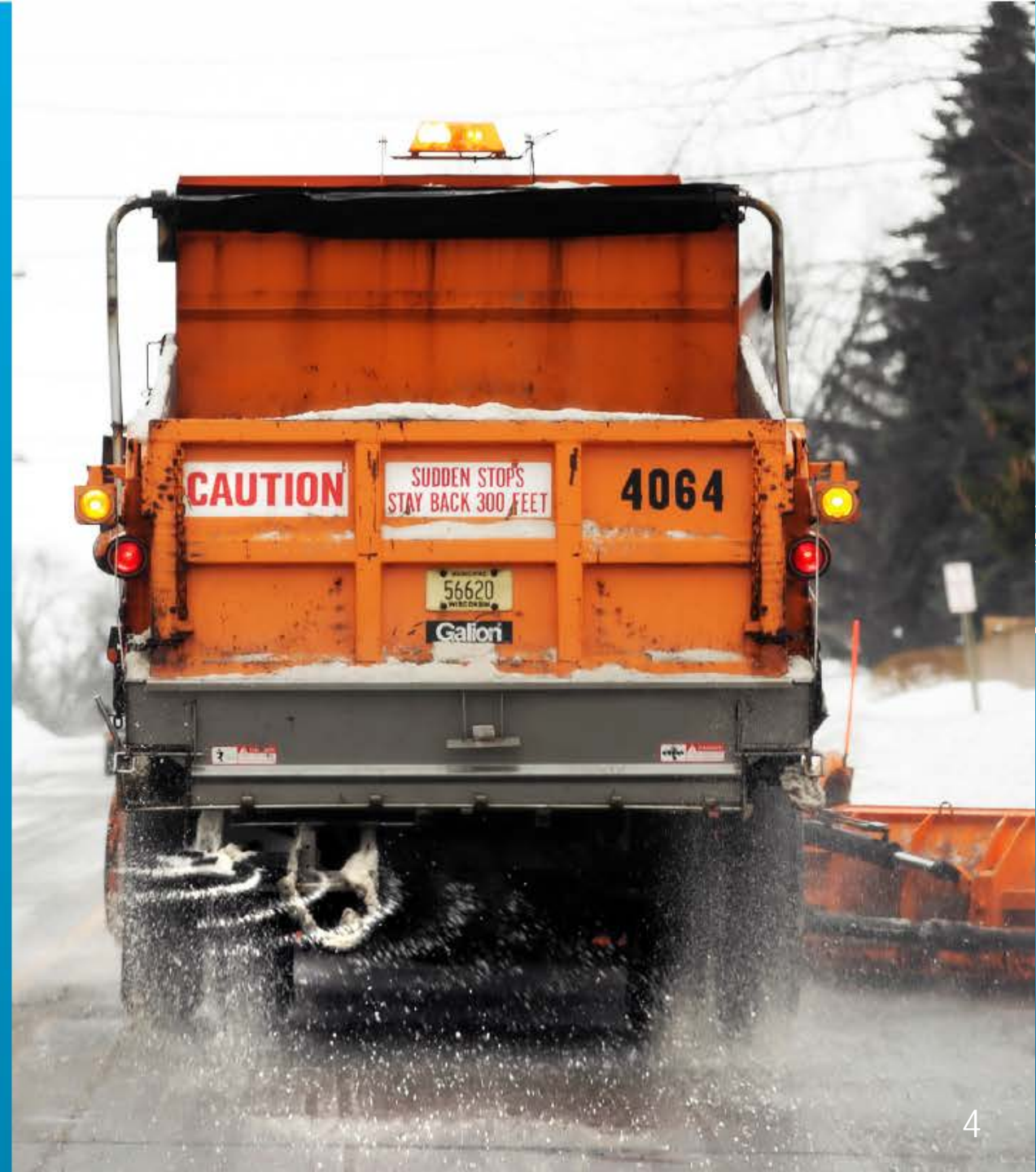
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/salt-applicators>

# REFERENCES

1. Sander, A., E. Novotny, O. Mohseni, H.G. Stefan, (2007) "Inventory of Road Salt Uses in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area". University of Minnesota, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, Minneapolis, MN, Report No. 503, December 2007, 46 pp.
2. Talmage P J, Lee K E, Goldstein R M, Anderson J P, Fallon J D. Water Quality, Physical Habitat, and Fish-Community composition in Streams in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota 1997-98. 1999; 18.
3. Novotny V, Muehring D, Zitomer D H, Smith D W, Facey R. Cyanide and metal pollution by urban snowmelt: impact of deicing compounds. *Water Science and Technology* 1998; 38: 223-230.
4. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-101>
5. Heiskary, S. and M. Lindon. 2009. Microcystin in Minnesota Lakes. *LakeLine* 24(4):25-30

# Salt pollutes.

When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride, and it takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Less is more when it comes to applying salt because at high concentrations, chloride can harm the fish and plant life in our waters.





## Thank You Plow Drivers!

Ramsey County plow truck drivers work tirelessly to not only keep us mobile in the worst weather, but also focus on smart salt use using innovative equipment, technology, and know how to reduce chloride use on the roads



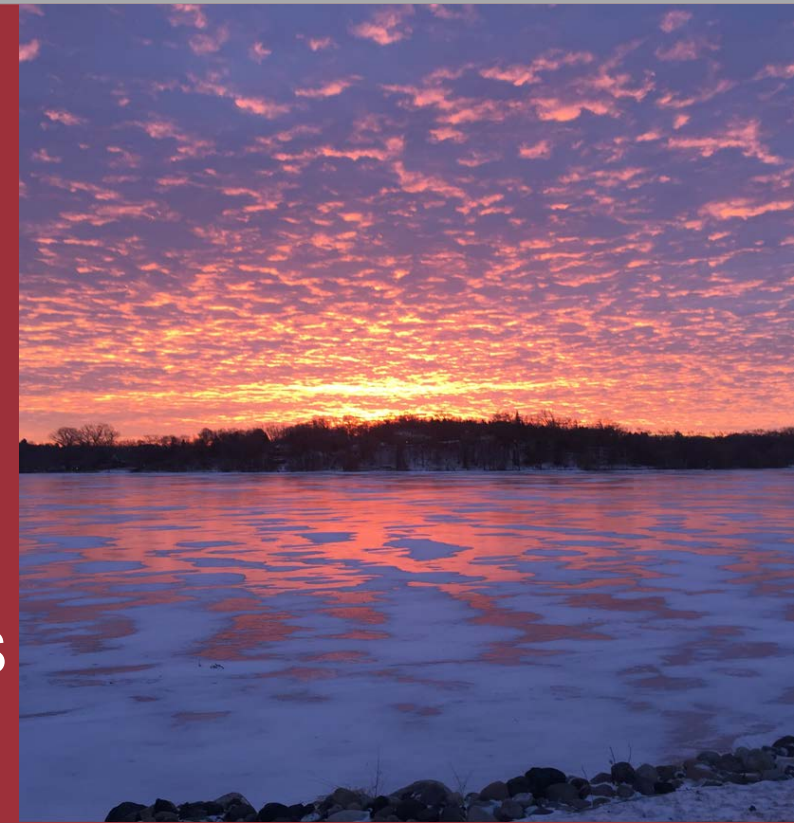


# Preventing New Infestations and Their Effect on Water Quality

March 2019 Forum



**Justin Townsend**  
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator  
Ramsey County  
Parks and Recreation-Soil and Water Division  
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive  
Arden Hills, MN 55117  
651-266-7277  
[Justin.Townsend@co.Ramsey.MN.US](mailto:Justin.Townsend@co.Ramsey.MN.US)



**Friendly public service announcement: Not all aquatic plants or animals are bad. They require care like any landscape. Please take care of them.**



**Photos 1 & 2:** Sole juvenile zebra mussel found on a settlement plate by a lake resident on August 18, 2018 in Bald Eagle Lake, Ramsey County.



**Figure 1. Zebra mussels found in Lake Johanna, collected in 2018. Two distinct year classes were found (top numbers on ruler are in mm).**

Photo Courtesy of Steve McComas or Bluewater Science



## Why Should I Care?

- Zebra mussel shells are extremely sharp
- At scale they foul equipment (clogged engine intakes)
- Eat the base of the food chain fish species rely on
- Change water clarity increasing nuisance plants

[https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/UMISC-2016/Tuesday/2/Fieldseth\\_McComas\\_ZebraMusselsWaterQualLakeMinnetonkaMN.pdf](https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/UMISC-2016/Tuesday/2/Fieldseth_McComas_ZebraMusselsWaterQualLakeMinnetonkaMN.pdf)

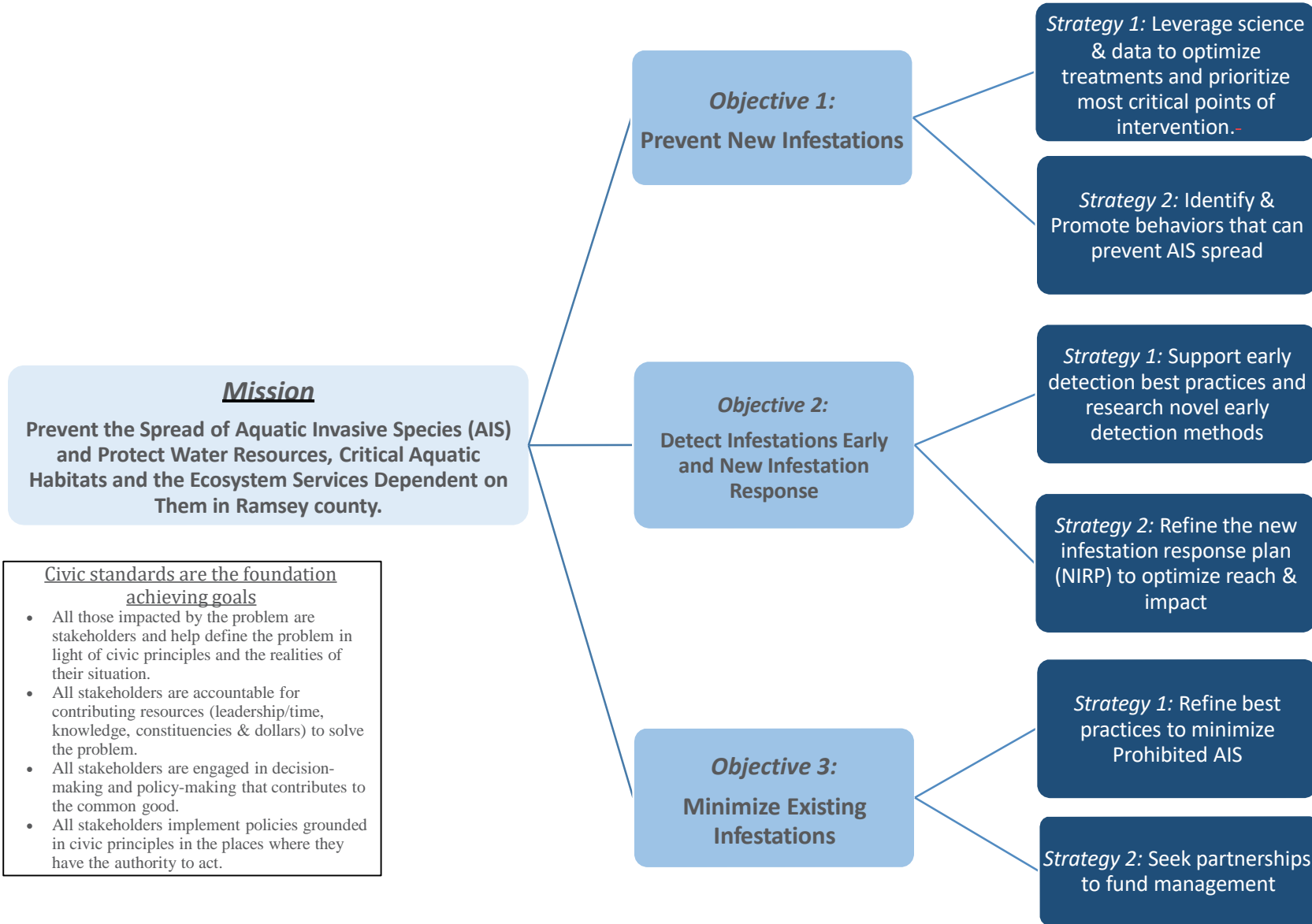


PHOTO BY BRAD HENLEY

## Why Should I Care?

- Eurasian Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Brittle Niad, Phragmites, and Flowering Rush are aggressive plants
- They diminish the recreational value of lakes
- Decrease or interrupt spawning habitat for fish
- May have allelopathic (kills other plants) tendencies

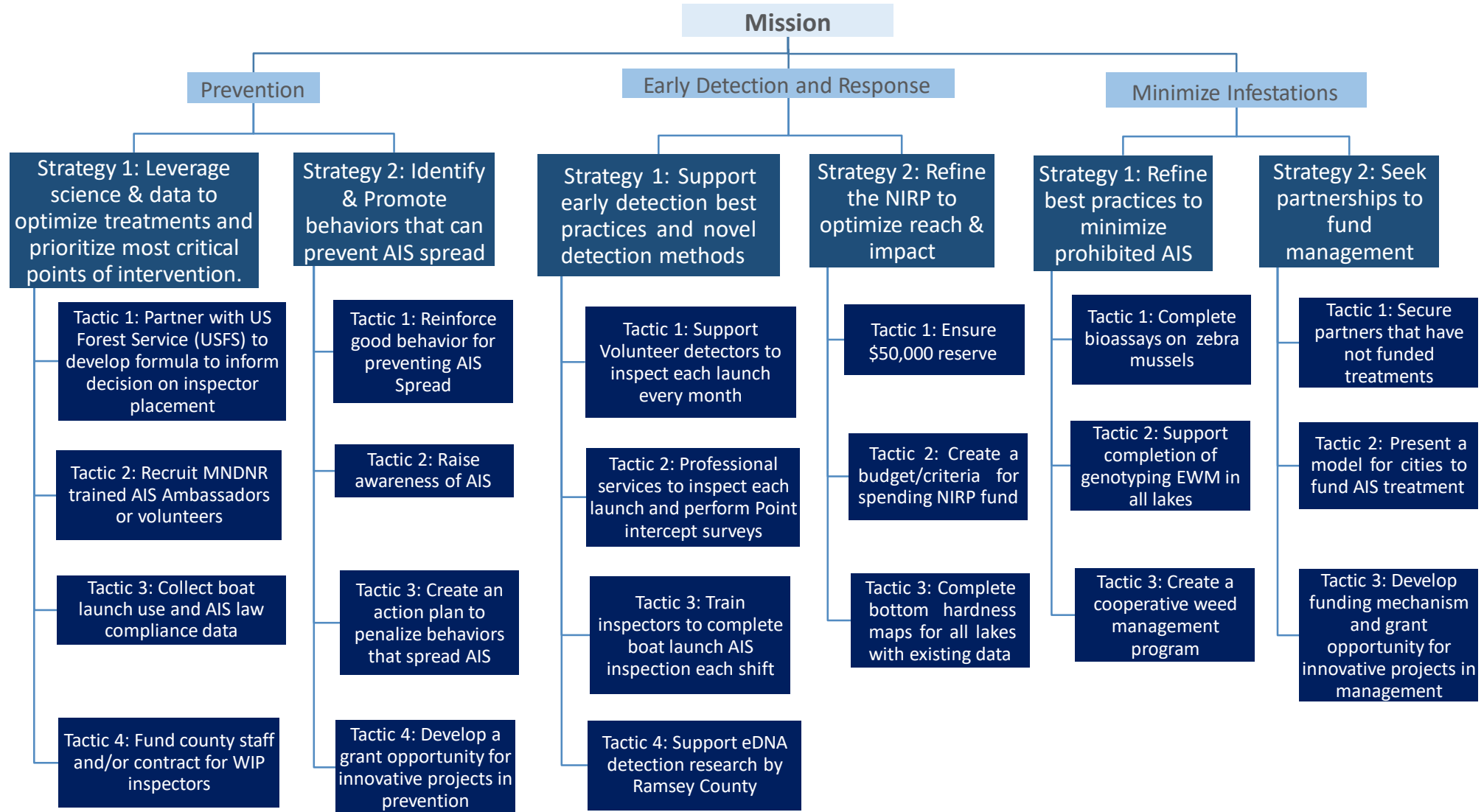
<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1688>



Civic standards are the foundation achieving goals

- All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders and help define the problem in light of civic principles and the realities of their situation.
- All stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies & dollars) to solve the problem.
- All stakeholders are engaged in decision-making and policy-making that contributes to the common good.
- All stakeholders implement policies grounded in civic principles in the places where they have the authority to act.





We Inspect to:

- Raise awareness
- Gather data
- Educate



We analyze to:

- Refine inspections
- Reach more people
- Reduce the risk

$$\max_{x_{ik}, y_{jk}} Z = \sum_{j \in J} \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{k \in K} n_{ijk} (a_{ijk} + b_{ijk})$$

Subject to:

$$a_{ijk} \leq x_{ik} \quad \forall i, j, k$$

$$b_{ijk} \leq y_{jk} \quad \forall i, j, k$$

$$a_{ijk} + b_{ijk} \leq 1 \quad \forall i, j, k$$

We reduce the barriers to clean boats

- Provide the Knowledge
- Provide the tools
- Increase the social pressure to clean, drain, dispose



**Stop Here**

**Clean** off aquatic plants and animals

**Drain** water and remove drain plugs

**Dispose** of unwanted bait in trash

**Thank you for protecting Minnesota waters!**

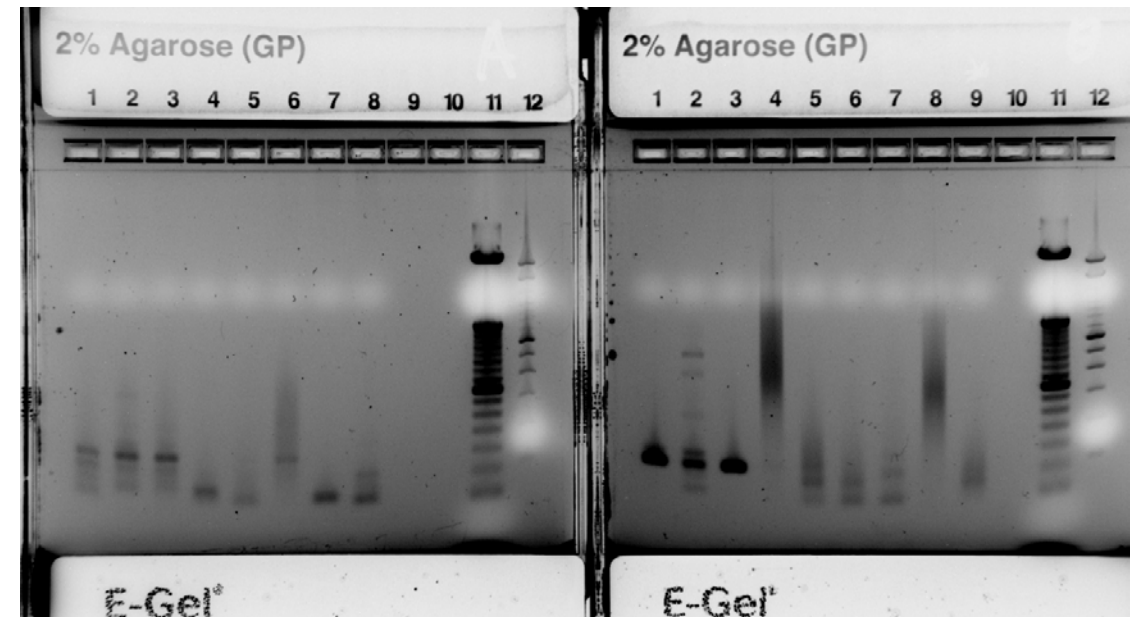


## Early Detection

- Inspectors search daily
- Volunteer detectors search monthly
- Veliger Tows
- Contracted diver searches at each boat launch
- Cutting edge eDNA detection



Figure 3. [left] Blue Water Science staff searching nearshore areas for zebra mussels. [right] Example of organisms found on a rock that are not zebra mussels.



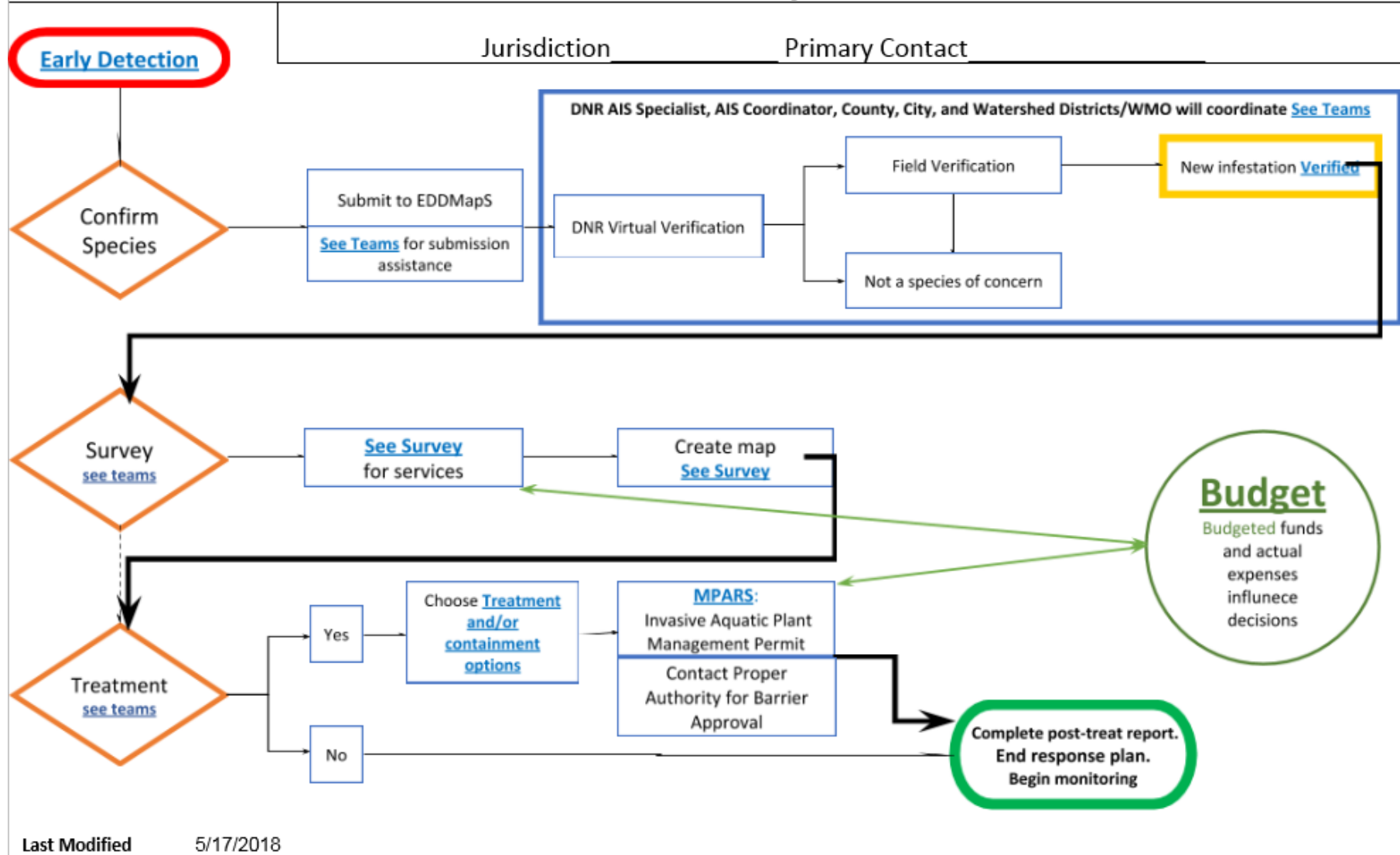
## Response

- Planning-developed the new infestation response plan
- Funding- contingency dollars via county prevention aid
- Collaborating-working proactively with lake associations, cities, and all stakeholders
- Bioassays to study chemical efficacy for zebra mussel treatment
- Working with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) on Eurasian Milfoil genotyping



# New Infestation Response Plan

Last Modified 5/17/2018



Last Modified 5/17/2018

Please follow the [Communication Plan](#) throughout this process

## Bottom Line

Invasions are hard to predict.  
Watch your boats and lifts! Report new sightings.

*Ramsey County will work with you to be a county of  
excellence in AIS prevention*

# Save The Date: May 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

## Soil and Water Conservation Division Forum

# Composting



**Get Active. Become an AIS Detector.**  
**Contact Justin if interested**  
**[Justin.Townsend@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Justin.Townsend@co.ramsey.mn.us)**



 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover®



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center





## More Questions? Contact Us

### Harmful Algal Blooms

- Shahram Missaghi
  - [miss0035@umn.edu](mailto:miss0035@umn.edu)
  - [952-221-1333](tel:952-221-1333)

### Salt

- John Manske
  - [John.manske@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:John.manske@co.ramsey.mn.us)
  - [651-266-7277](tel:651-266-7277)

### Aquatic Invasive Species

- Justin Townsend
  - [Justin.townsend@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Justin.townsend@co.ramsey.mn.us)
  - [651-266-7277](tel:651-266-7277)

## Please Let us Know What is Working

Please take 3 minutes on Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> for a survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCCDN2NH>

- How did you like this forum?
- Was the venue comfortable?
- What would you like to see at the next forum?

**Don't like computers? Contact Justin Townsend**

**[justin.townsend@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:justin.townsend@co.ramsey.mn.us) or 651-266-7277 to take the survey via phone or email.**

# WATER QUALITY IN RAMSEY COUNTY


John Manske

Environmental Services, Lake Management





# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM RISK ASSESSMENT

- Based on the research of Steve Heiskary Et al. from the MPCA (5)
  - pH > 9.0
  - Secchi < 0.5 m
  - Cyanobacteria Concentration > 100,000 cells/mL
  - Chl A Concentration > 50mg/m<sup>3</sup>
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# RAMSEY COUNTY LAKE MANAGEMENT LABORATORY

Phosphorus (All forms)

Nitrogen (All forms)

Chloride

Chlorophyll A

Turbidity

Phytoplankton

Zooplankton

Zebra Mussel Veliger

Total Hardness

Total Alkalinity

Total Nonfilterable Residue

Volatile Nonfilterable Residue

*E. coli*

eDNA

LAKE	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
BALD EAGLE	B	A	A	B	C	C	C
BEAVER	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
BENNETT	C	C	C	C	C	D	D
COMO	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
CROSBY	C	C	C	C	D	C	C
GERVAIS	B	B	B	B	C	C	C
ISLAND NORTH	C	C	C	C	B	B	N/A
ISLAND SOUTH	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
JOHANNA	B	B	B	A	B	B	B
JOSEPHINE	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
KELLER	B	B	B	B	C	B	C
KOHLMAN	C	B	B	B	C	C	C
LITTLE CROSBY	C	B	B	C	D	B	B
LOEB	A	A	A	B	B	A	A
LONG NORTH	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
LONG SOUTH	C	B	B	C	C	C	C
MCCARRON	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
OTTER	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
OWASSO	B	B	B	B	B	C	C
PHALEN	A	A	A	A	B	B	B
ROUND(NR PHALEN)	B	A	A	B	C	B	B
SILVER E	C	C	C	C	C	D	D
SILVER W	C	C	C	B	C	C	C
SNAIL	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
TURTLE	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
TWIN	B	B	B	B	C	B	B
WABASSO	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
WAKEFIELD	D	C	C	D	C	C	C
WHITE BEAR	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

April 16, 2018

## By the Numbers at MSP

**0**

Number of days that have been above normal so far this April

**15.8**

Storm total snowfall at MSP

**15.9**

Monthly temperature departure below normal

**26.1**

April monthly snowfall at MSP, new record (21.8" 1983)

**37.0**

Today's forecast high temperature

**58.0**

Today's normal high temperature

**78.3**

Inches of snow so far this season

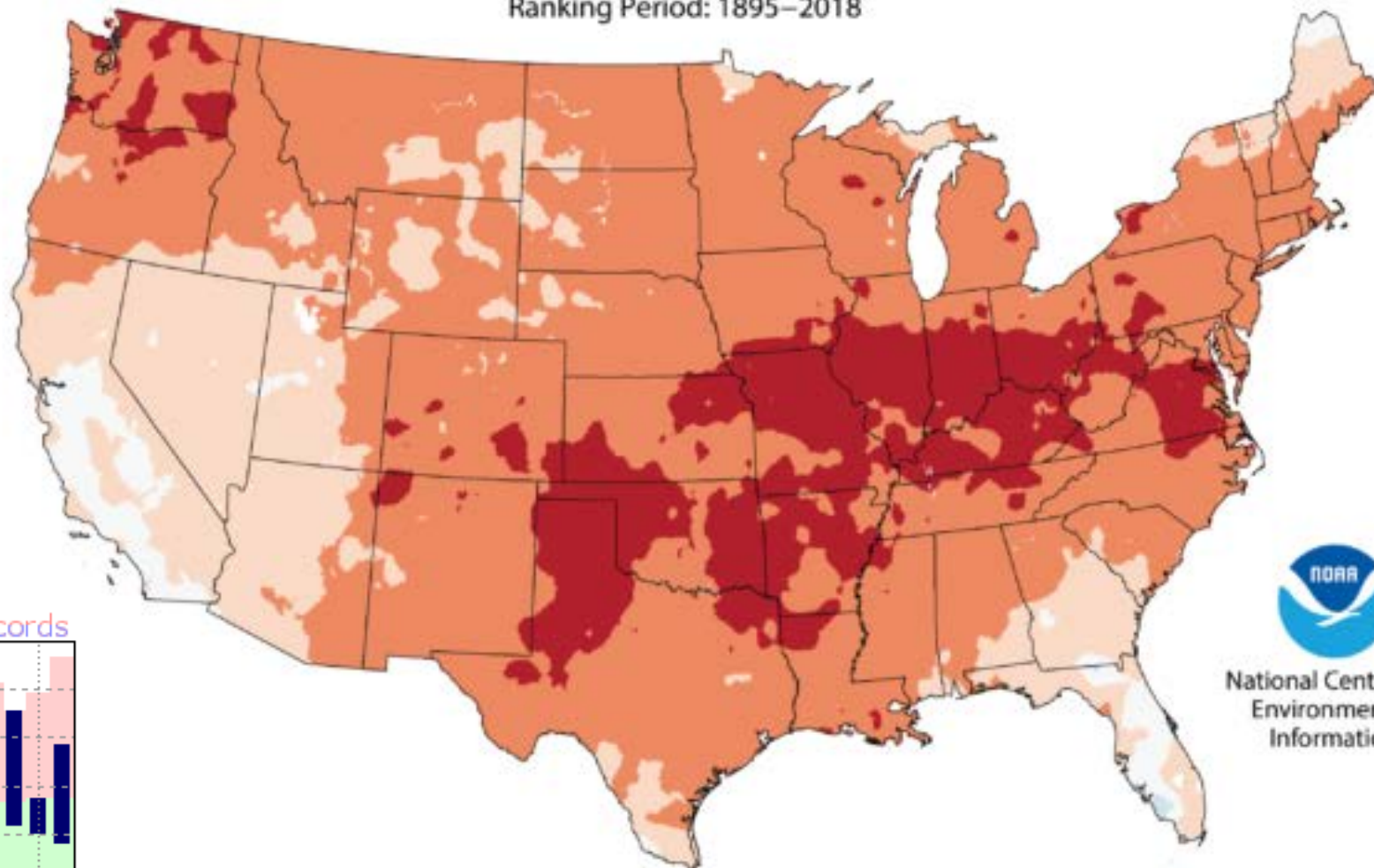




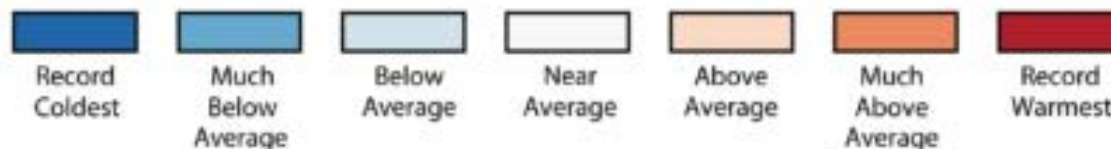
# Mean Temperature Percentiles

May 2018

Ranking Period: 1895–2018



National Centers for  
Environmental  
Information



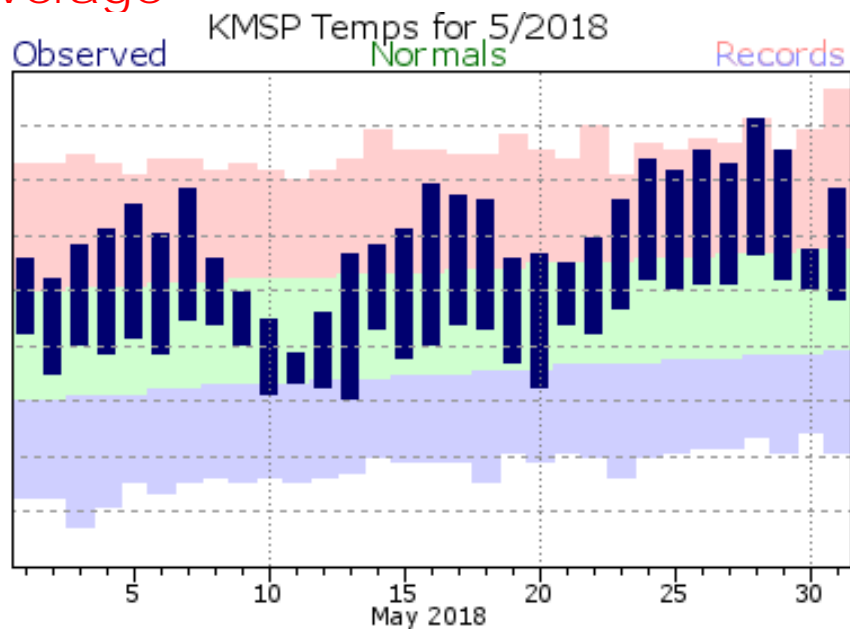
Jun 04 2018

Data Source: 5km Gridded Dataset (nClimGrid)

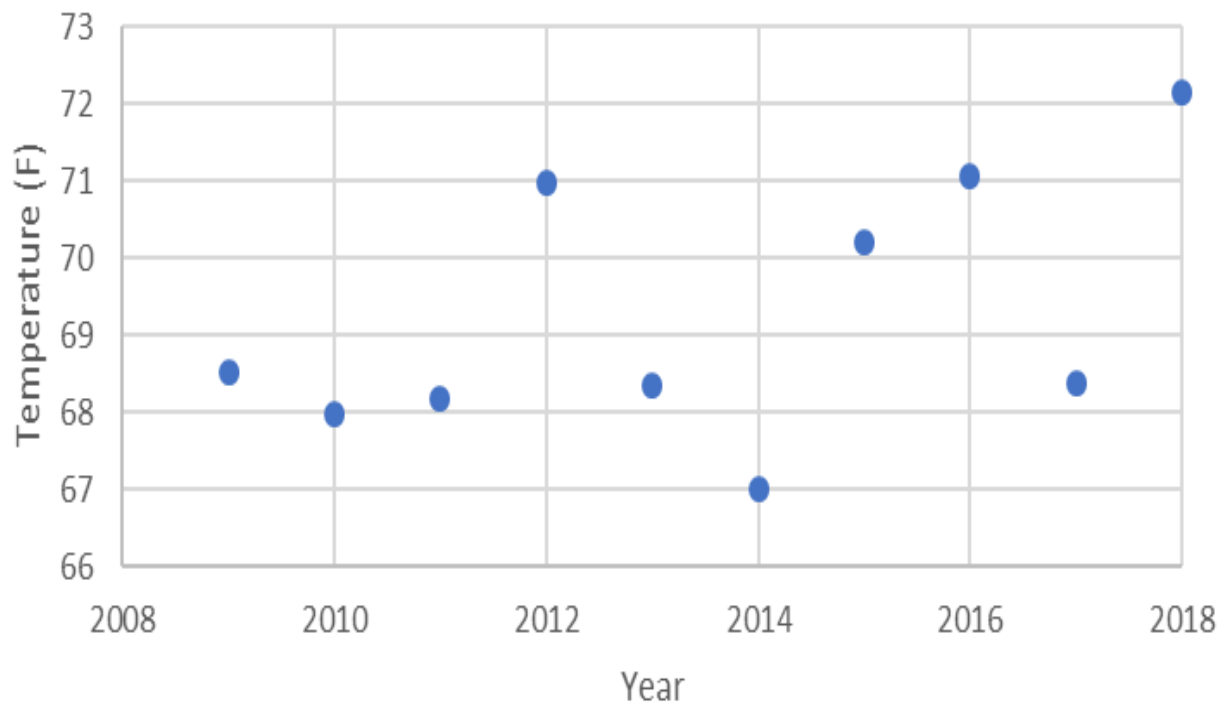
## Records set in May 2018

- Warmest Mean Temperature in USA
- 6 days above 90°F in the Twin Cities
- Earliest 100°F day in the Twin Cities (May 28<sup>th</sup>)

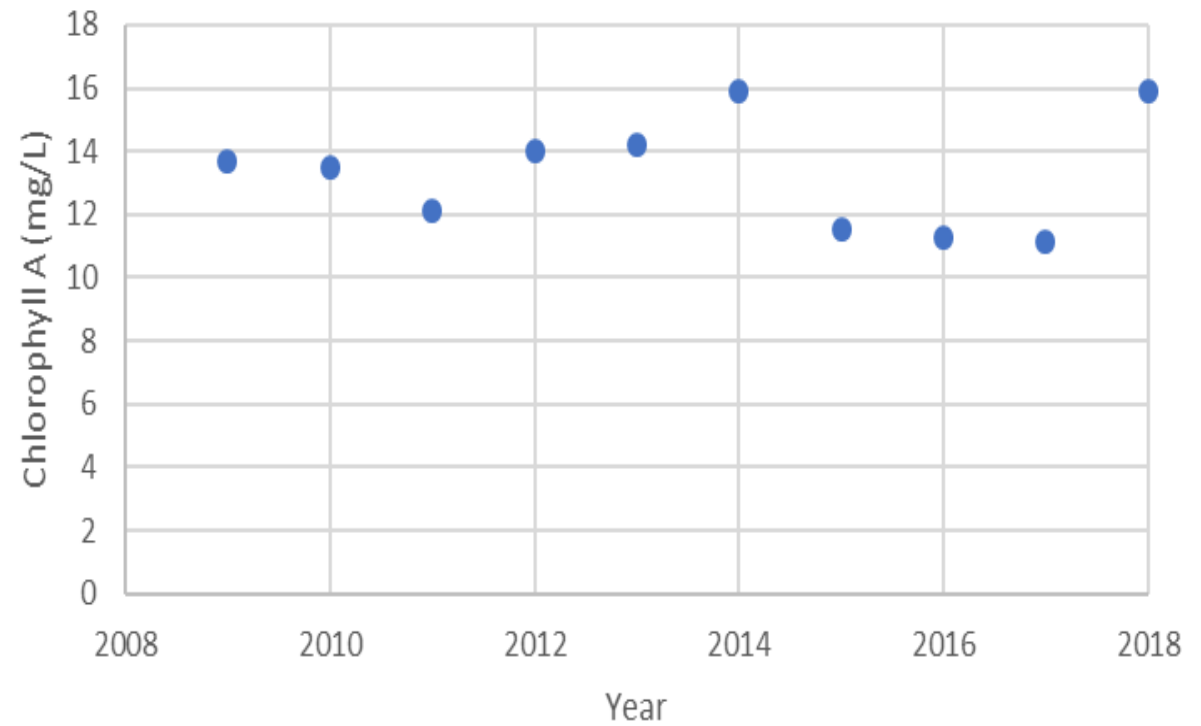
Twin Cities were 8.7°F above average



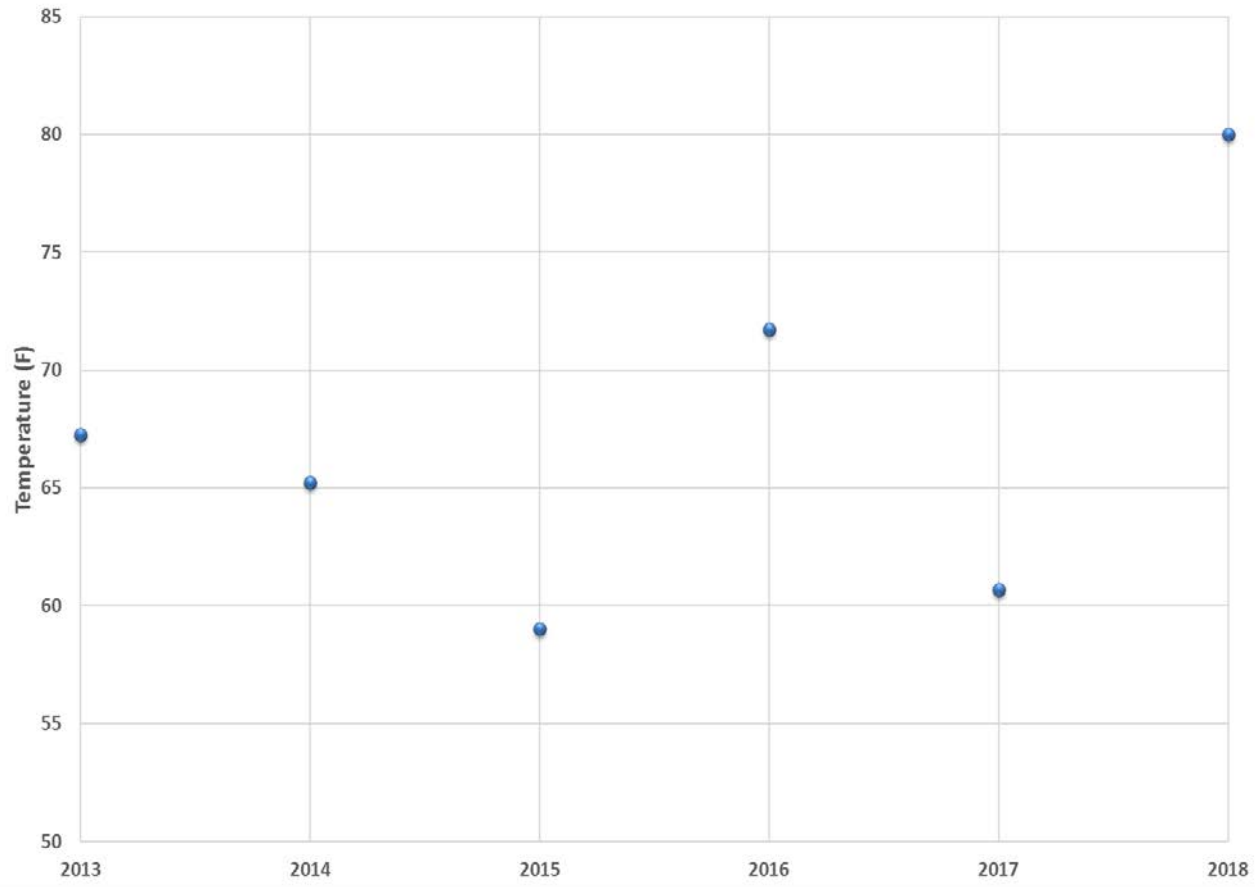
Average Temperature in the epilimnion of all Ramsey County lakes monitored May-Sept



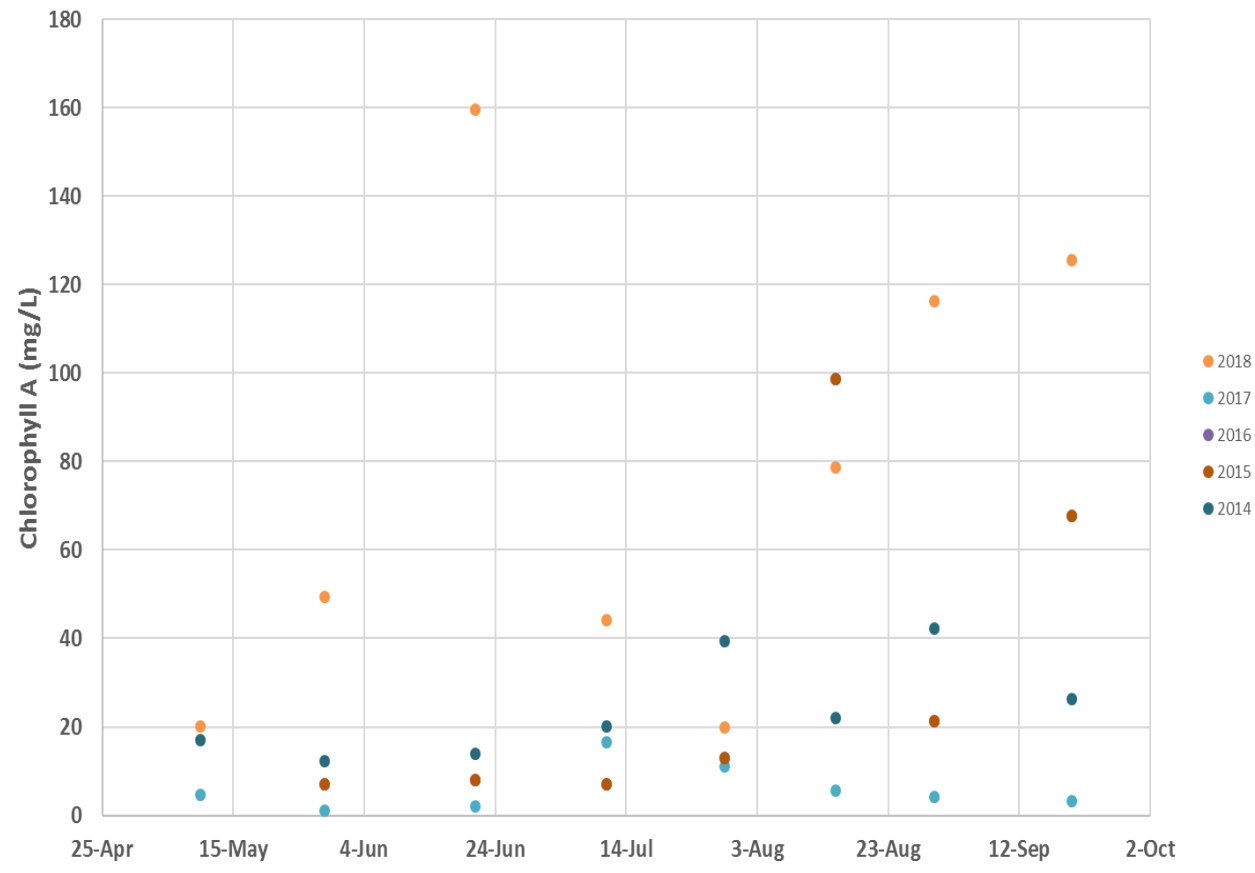
Average Chlorophyll A in the epilimnion of all RC lakes May-Sept



### Wakefield Surface Water Temperature in Late May



### Wakefield Surface Chlorophyll A



# BALD EAGLE ALUMINUM SULFATE TREATMENT



Project Engineer:



Contractor:



Treatment 1: 2014

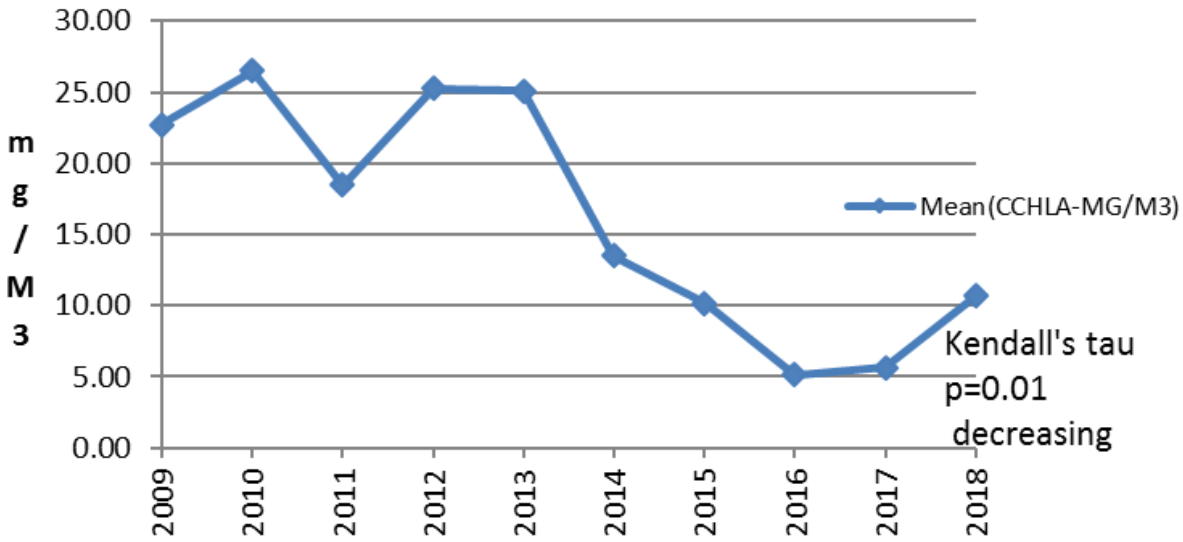
Treatment 2: 2016

The largest alum treatment in MN

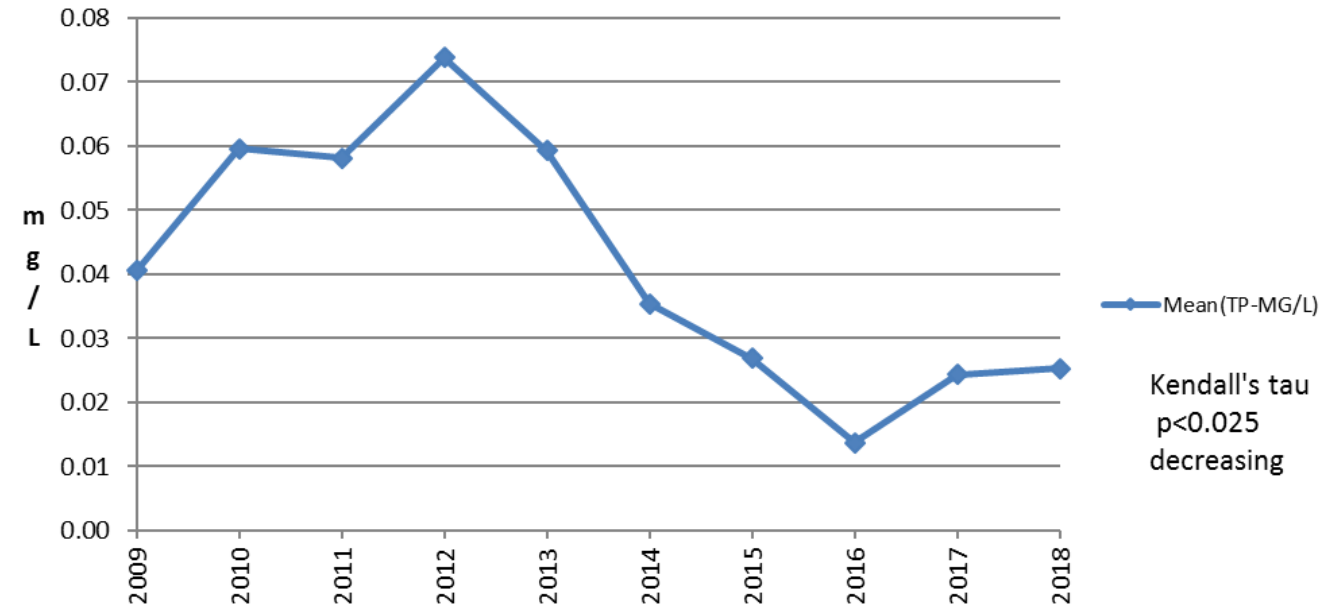




## Bald Eagle ChIA

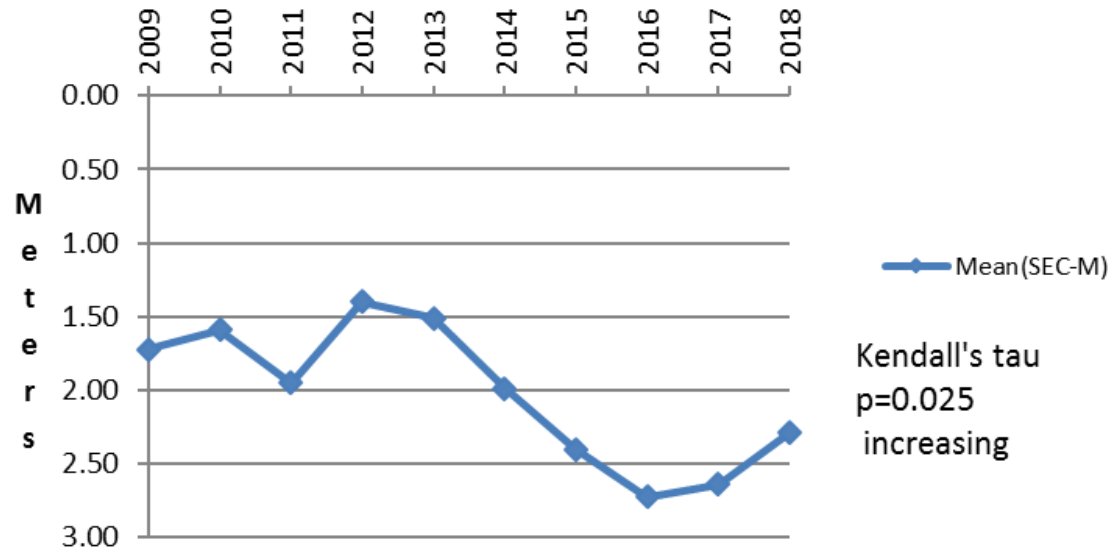


## Bald Eagle TP



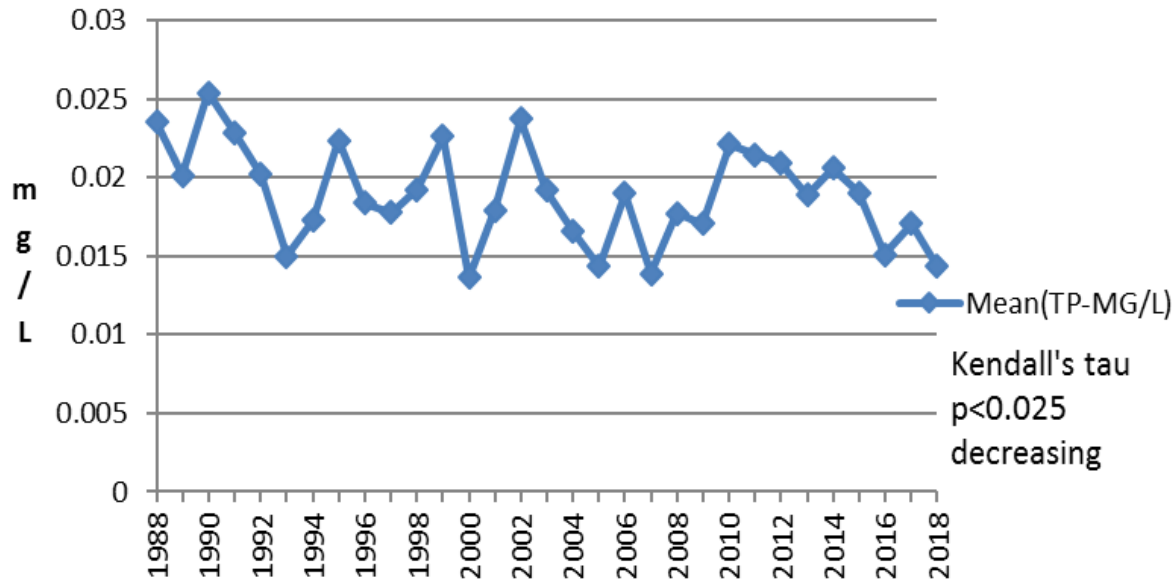
Note: 2014 + 2016 Alum treatments

## Bald Eagle Secchi

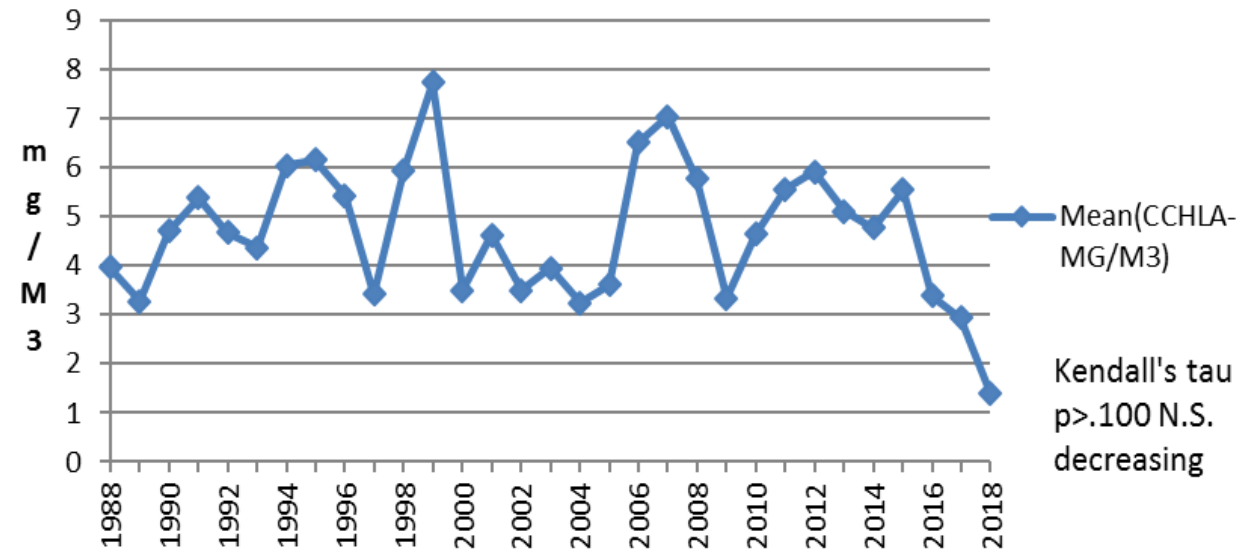


[Link to Alum Treatment Project Page](#)

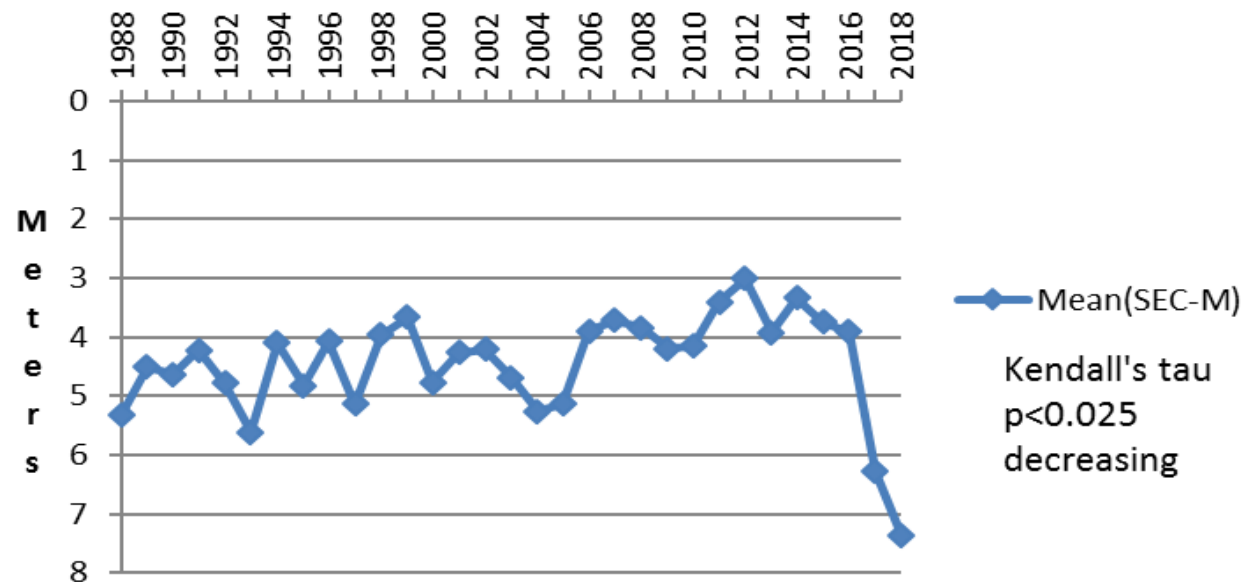
### White Bear Total Phosphorus



### White Bear Chlorophyll A



### White Bear Secchi



Note: 2014 Zebra Mussel infestation confirmed

# RAMSEY COUNTY LAKE MANAGEMENT WINTER MONITORING PROGRAM

- ▶ Dissolved oxygen monitoring/aerating
  - ▶ Como, Owasso, Island, Otter, Silver East, Beaver
- ▶ Chloride monitoring
  - ▶ Worked with MPCA to establish a state water quality standard for chloride. [TCMA Chloride Project Link](#)
  - ▶ A large number of lakes were categorized as impaired for aquatic life, or at high risk of becoming impaired.

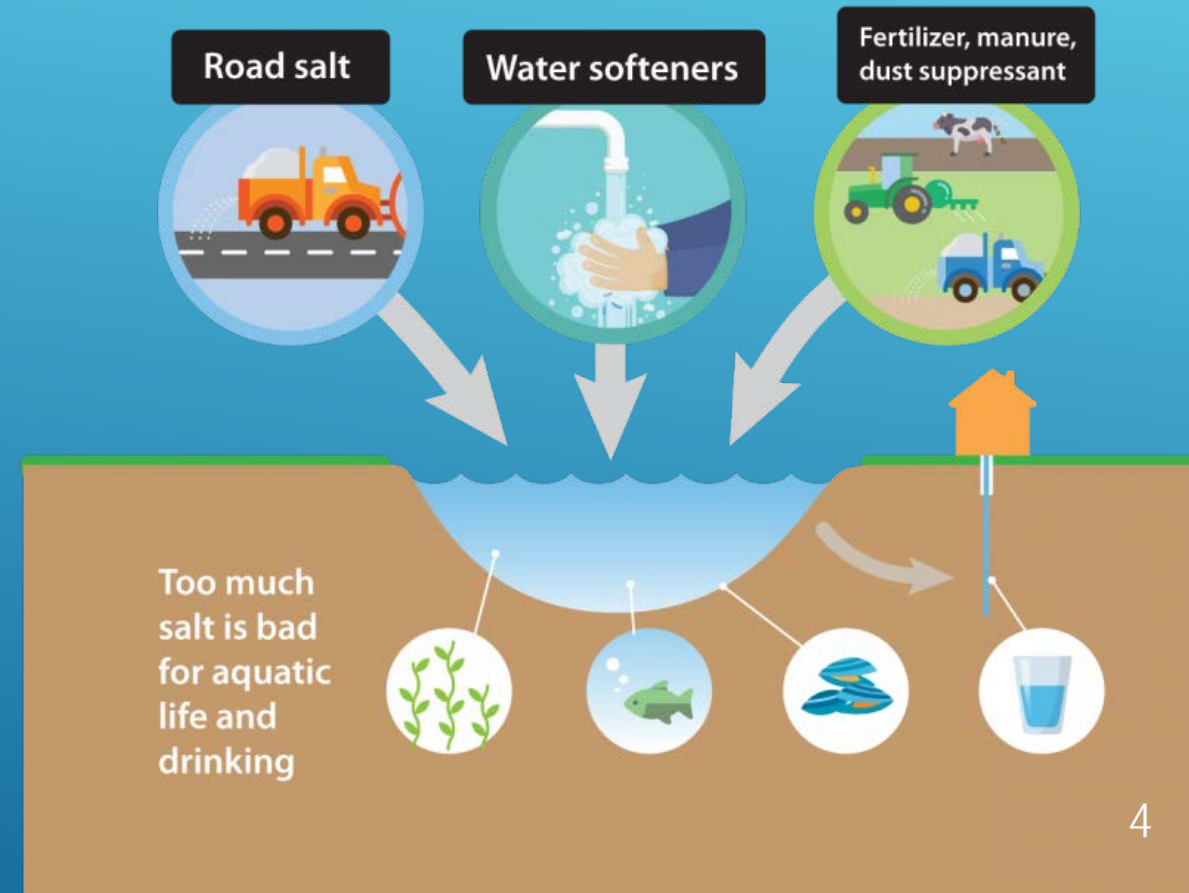


# WHERE DOES CHLORIDE COME FROM ?

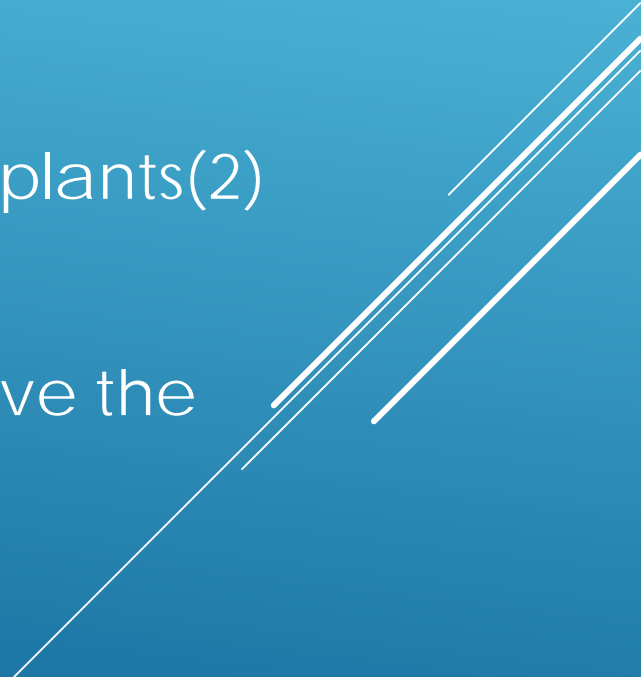
- Ramsey County uses 16,000,000 lbs/year to deice roads
- 700,000,000 lbs/year used in the Twin Cities Metro Area (1)
- 78% of this chloride is transported to surface or ground water in the TCMA

Table 1. Summary of annual road salt application amounts

User	Use (Tons)	Use %
MNDOT	80,797	23%
Counties	70,284	20%
Cities	114,314	33%
Commercial Bulk	66,349	19%
Packaged	17,460	5%
Total	349,204	100%



# WHY IS CHLORIDE SO BAD?

- It takes only one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water.
  - There's no easy way to remove salt from water.
  - Causes osmotic stress to organisms
  - Decreases the biodiversity of sediment organisms and plants(2)
  - Increases the release and transport of heavy metals(3)
  - 30% of wells in TCMA had chloride concentrations above the chronic water quality standard.
  - Corrosive to most surfaces
- 

### Average chloride concentration when exceeding 230 mg/L

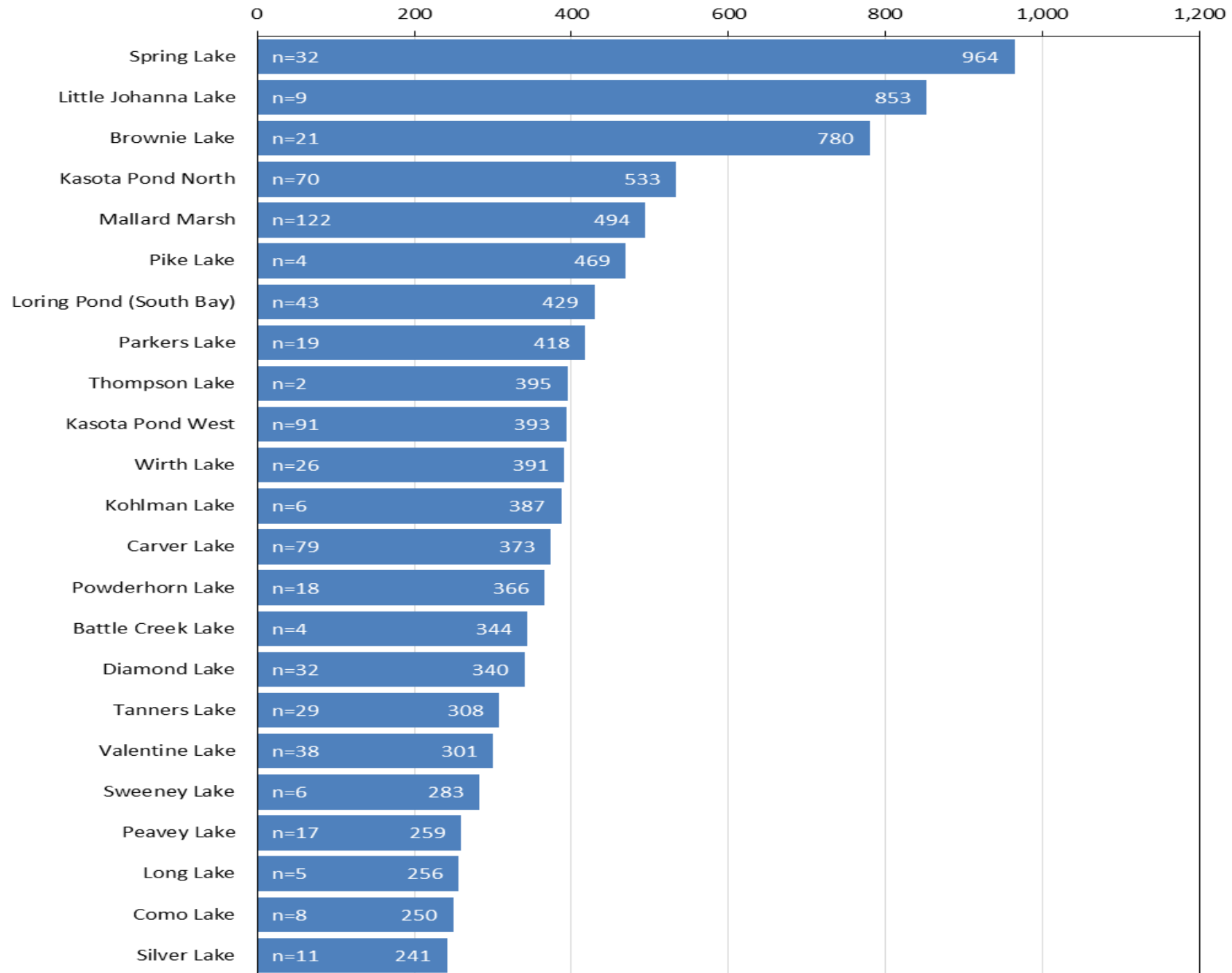
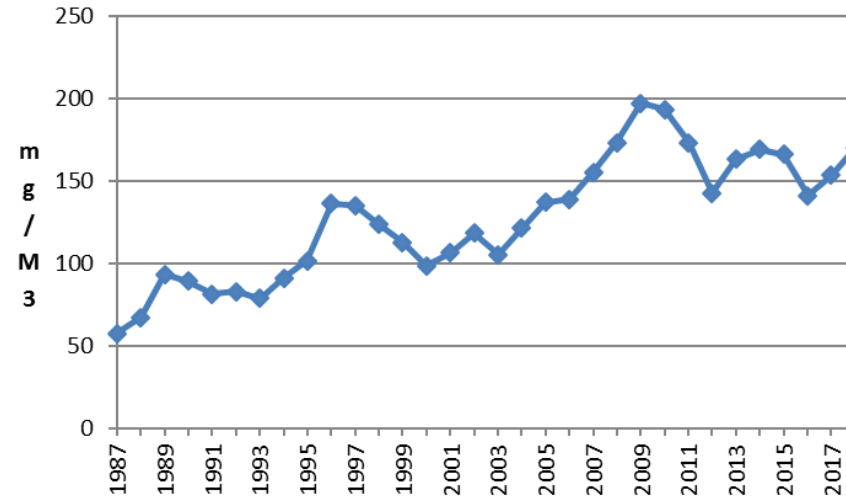


Table 2.TCMA Chloride Management Plan - MPCA 2015

# LAKES WITH A HIGH RISK OF CHLORIDE IMPAIRMENT

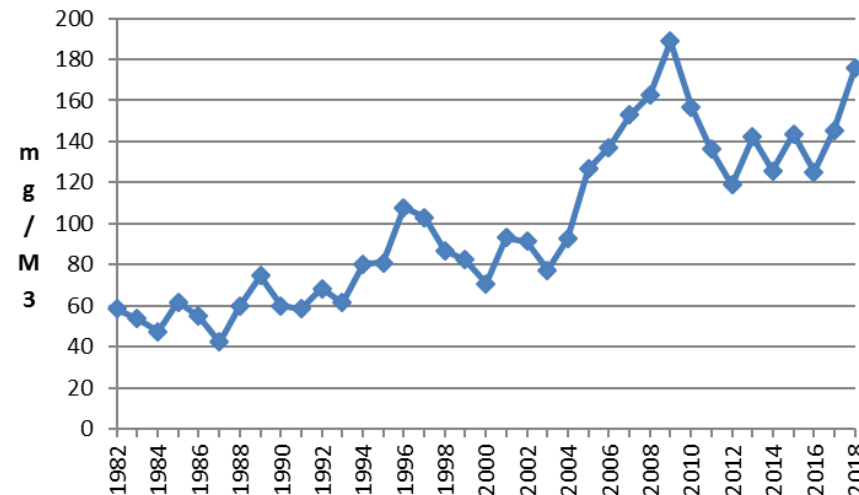
- Beaver
- Bennett
- Crosby ★
- Gervais ★
- Johanna ★
- Keller
- McCarrons
- Wabasso
- Wakefield ★

### Johanna Chloride Concentration in Surface Water



Kendall's tau  
 $p < .005$   
increasing

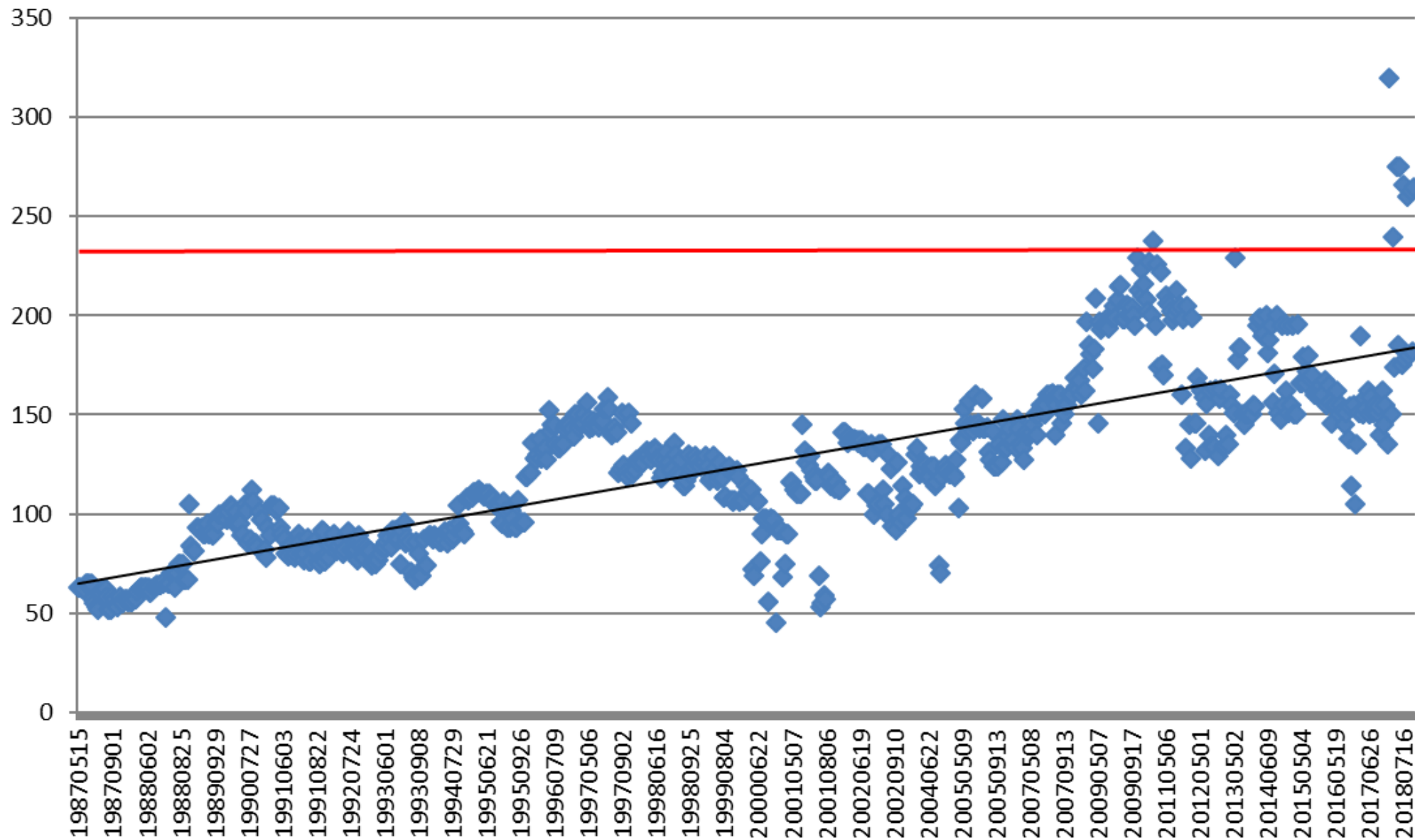
### Gervais Chloride Concentration in Surface Water



Kendall's tau  
 $p < .005$   
increasing

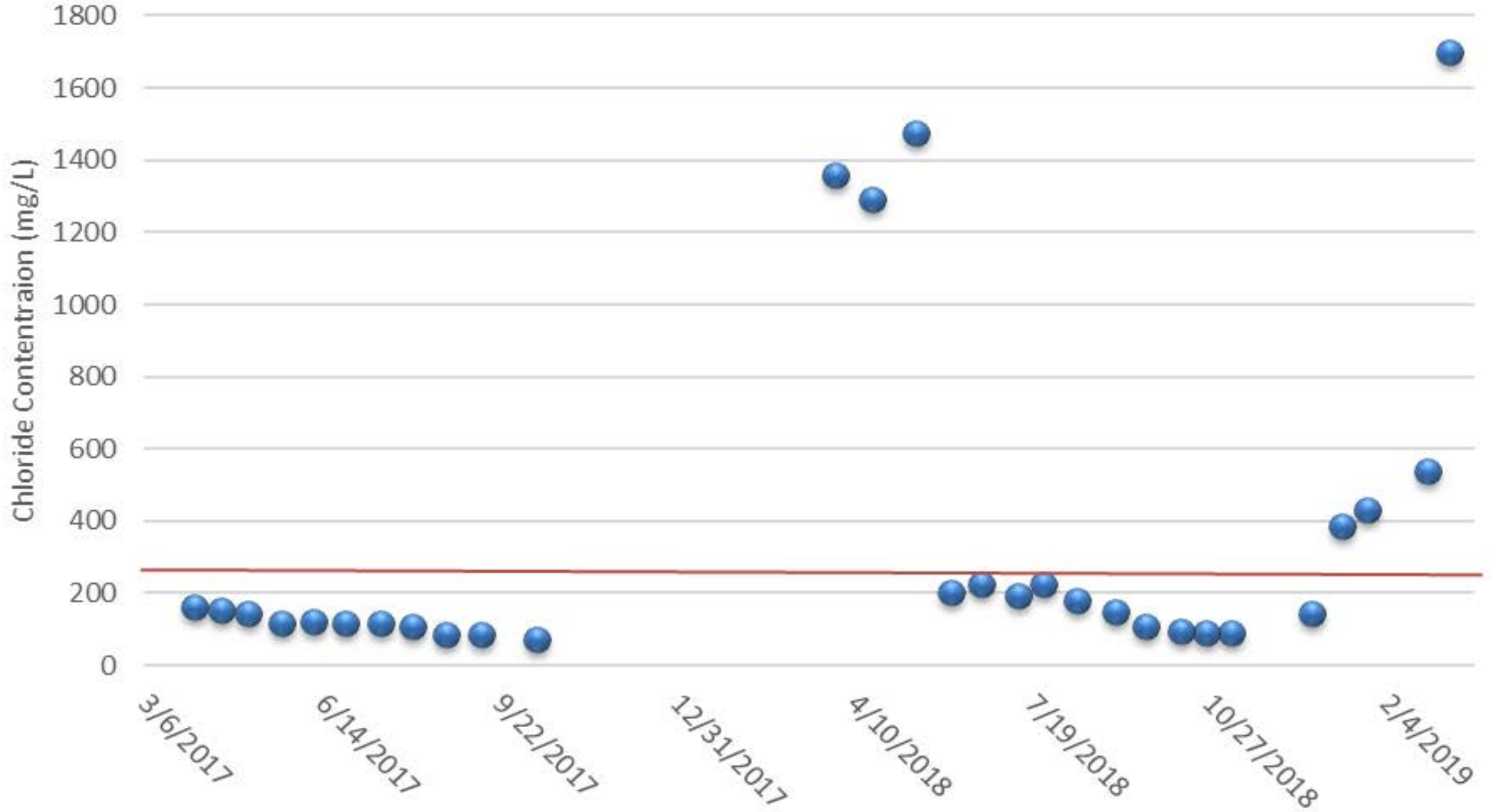
# Johanna Lake Chloride Concentraion 1987 - 2018

Chloride Concentrations (mg/L)



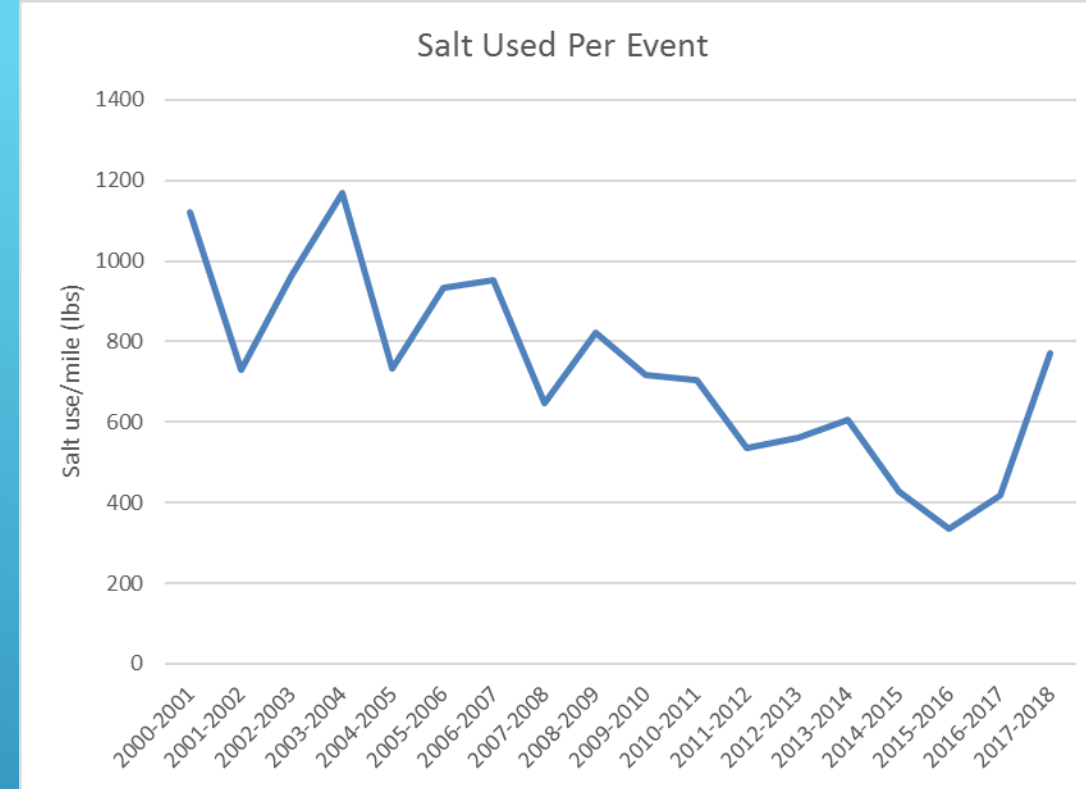
Impaired for Chloride above 230 mg/L

# Como Chloride Concentration



# WHAT IS RAMSEY COUNTY DOING

- Set goals to decrease salt usage
- Track usage of salt with calibrated dispensers
- Prevent ice buildup by shoveling and plowing more often, or with better equipment.
  - Ramsey County recently purchased tungsten carbide plow blades for our trucks to improve ice and snow removal (\$145,000)
- MPCA Smart Salt Applying Training and Tools
- Use Salt brine when conditions allow
- Sweep up excess salt and reuse



# Great Online Resources

Improved Winter Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water

MN Key Water Info List

<http://es.metc.state.mn.us/KeyWaterList/#SurfaceWater>

Surface Water Data – MPCA

<http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/index.cfm>

Road Salt and Water Quality - MPCA

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-salts>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/salt-applicators>

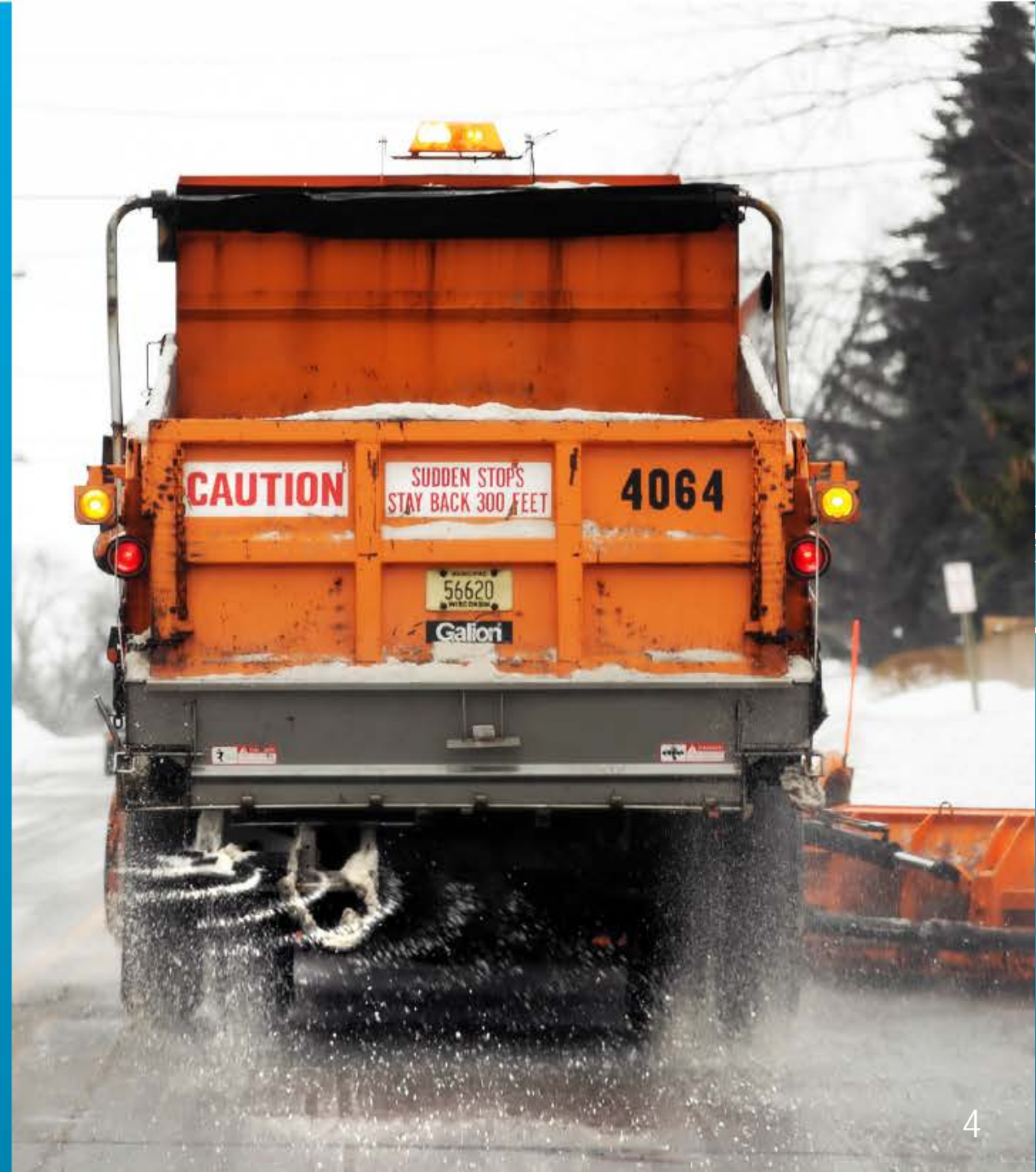


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1. Sander, A., E. Novotny, O. Mohseni, H.G. Stefan, (2007) "Inventory of Road Salt Uses in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area". University of Minnesota, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, Minneapolis, MN, Report No. 503, December 2007, 46 pp.
2. Talmage P J, Lee K E, Goldstein R M, Anderson J P, Fallon J D. Water Quality, Physical Habitat, and Fish-Community composition in Streams in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota 1997-98. 1999; 18.
3. Novotny V, Muehring D, Zitomer D H, Smith D W, Facey R. Cyanide and metal pollution by urban snowmelt: impact of deicing compounds. *Water Science and Technology* 1998; 38: 223-230.
4. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-101>
5. Heiskary, S. and M. Lindon. 2009. Microcystin in Minnesota Lakes. *LakeLine* 24(4):25-30

# Salt pollutes.

When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride, and it takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Less is more when it comes to applying salt because at high concentrations, chloride can harm the fish and plant life in our waters.



## Thank You Plow Drivers!

Ramsey County plow truck drivers work tirelessly to not only keep us mobile in the worst weather, but also focus on smart salt use using innovative equipment, technology, and know how to reduce chloride use on the roads





# Preventing New Infestations and Their Effect on Water Quality

March 2019 Forum



**Justin Townsend**  
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator  
Ramsey County  
Parks and Recreation-Soil and Water Division  
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive  
Arden Hills, MN 55117  
651-266-7277  
[Justin.Townsend@co.Ramsey.MN.US](mailto:Justin.Townsend@co.Ramsey.MN.US)



**Friendly public service announcement: Not all aquatic plants or animals are bad. They require care like any landscape. Please take care of them.**



**Photos 1 & 2:** Sole juvenile zebra mussel found on a settlement plate by a lake resident on August 18, 2018 in Bald Eagle Lake, Ramsey County.



**Figure 1. Zebra mussels found in Lake Johanna, collected in 2018. Two distinct year classes were found (top numbers on ruler are in mm).**

Photo Courtesy of Steve McComas or Bluewater Science



## Why Should I Care?

- Zebra mussel shells are extremely sharp
- At scale they foul equipment (clogged engine intakes)
- Eat the base of the food chain fish species rely on
- Change water clarity increasing nuisance plants

[https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/UMISC-2016/Tuesday/2/Fieldseth\\_McComas\\_ZebraMusselsWaterQualLakeMinnetonkaMN.pdf](https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/UMISC-2016/Tuesday/2/Fieldseth_McComas_ZebraMusselsWaterQualLakeMinnetonkaMN.pdf)



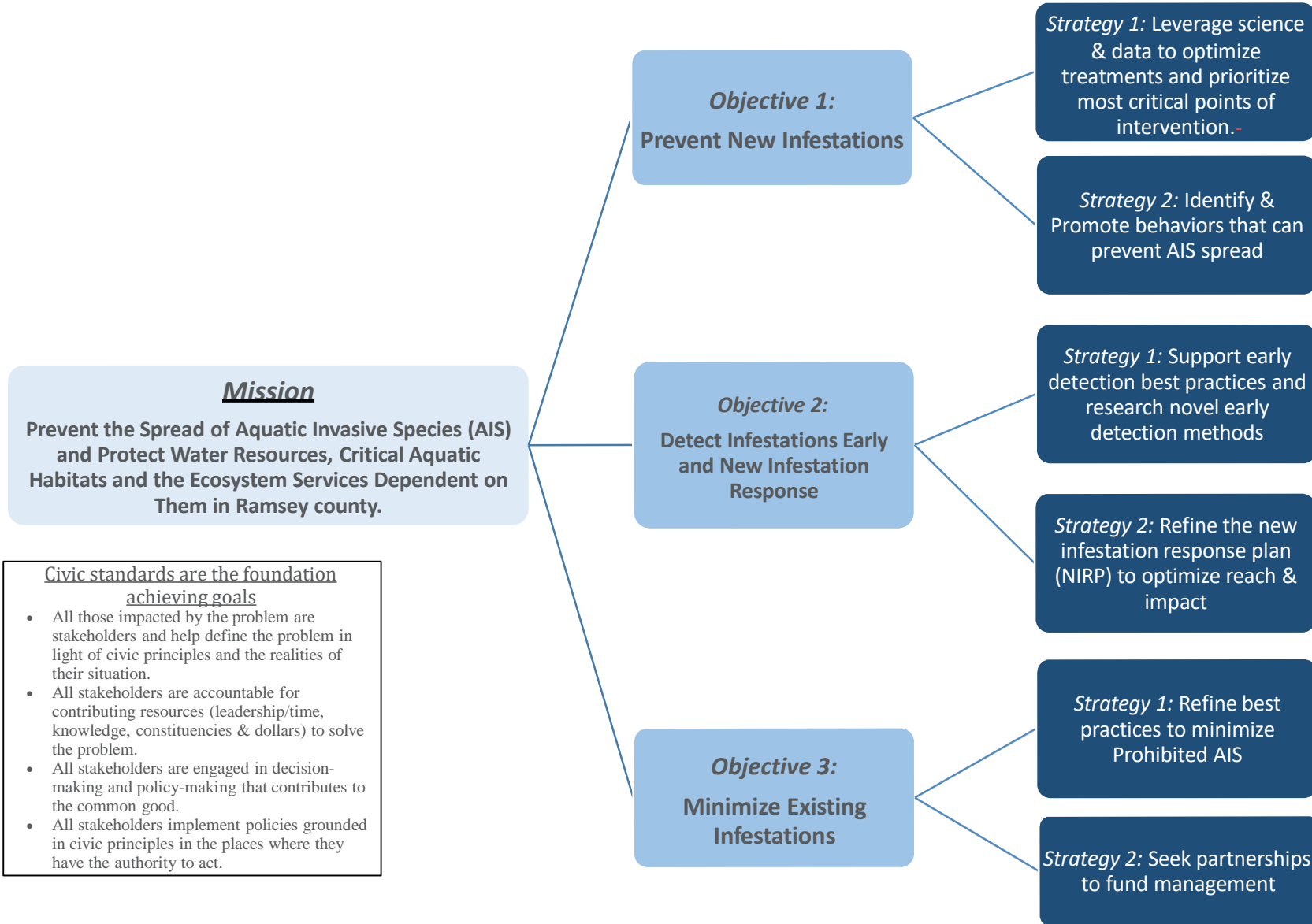
PHOTO BY BRAD HENLEY

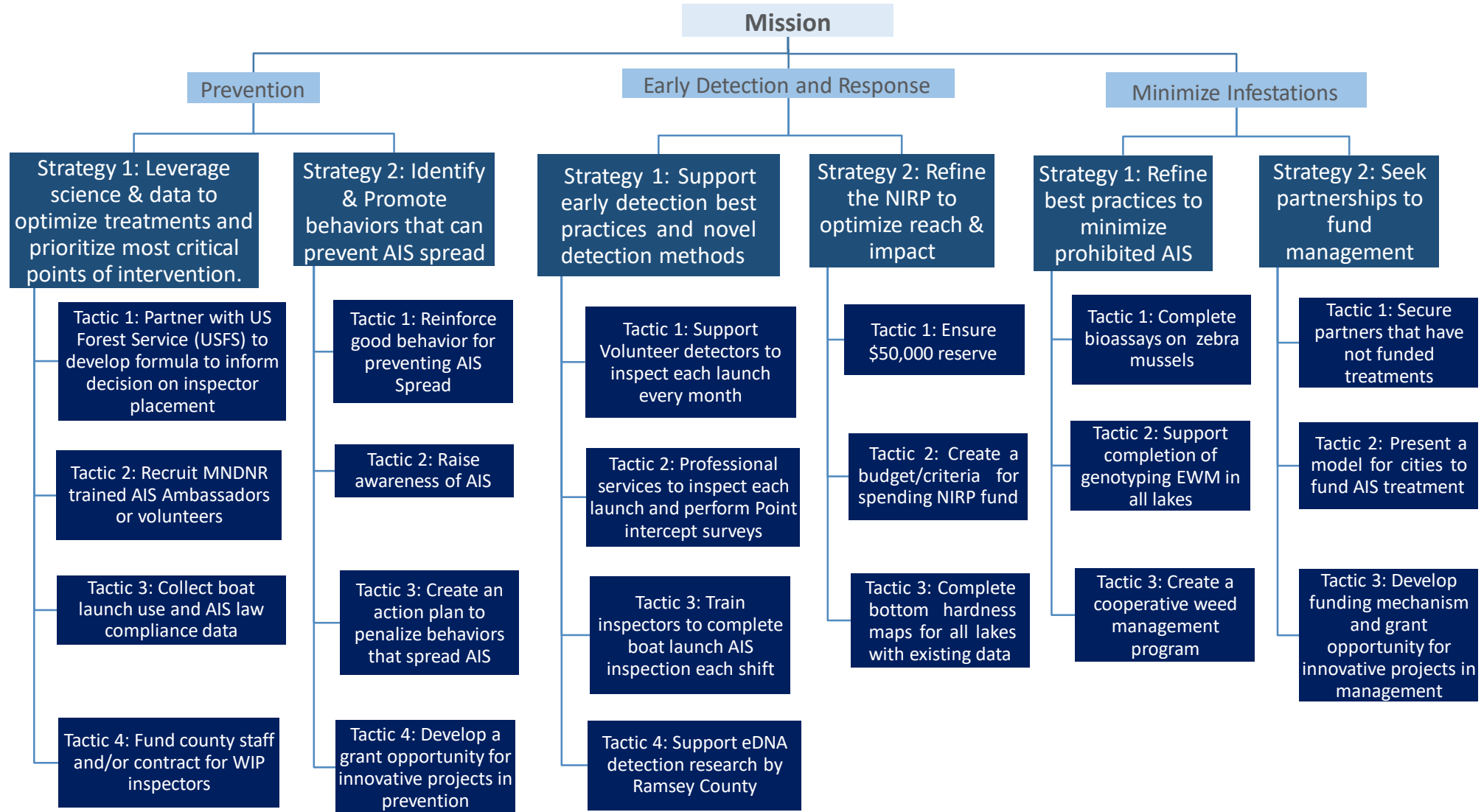


## Why Should I Care?

- Eurasian Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Brittle Niad, Phragmites, and Flowering Rush are aggressive plants
- They diminish the recreational value of lakes
- Decrease or interrupt spawning habitat for fish
- May have allelopathic (kills other plants) tendencies

<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1688>





We Inspect to:

- Raise awareness
- Gather data
- Educate



We analyze to:

- Refine inspections
- Reach more people
- Reduce the risk

$$\max_{x_{ik}, y_{jk}} Z = \sum_{j \in J} \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{k \in K} n_{ijk} (a_{ijk} + b_{ijk})$$

Subject to:

$$a_{ijk} \leq x_{ik} \quad \forall i, j, k$$

$$b_{ijk} \leq y_{jk} \quad \forall i, j, k$$

$$a_{ijk} + b_{ijk} \leq 1 \quad \forall i, j, k$$

We reduce the barriers to clean boats

- Provide the Knowledge
- Provide the tools
- Increase the social pressure to clean, drain, dispose



**Stop Here**

**Clean** off aquatic plants and animals

**Drain** water and remove drain plugs

**Dispose** of unwanted bait in trash

**Thank you for protecting Minnesota waters!**

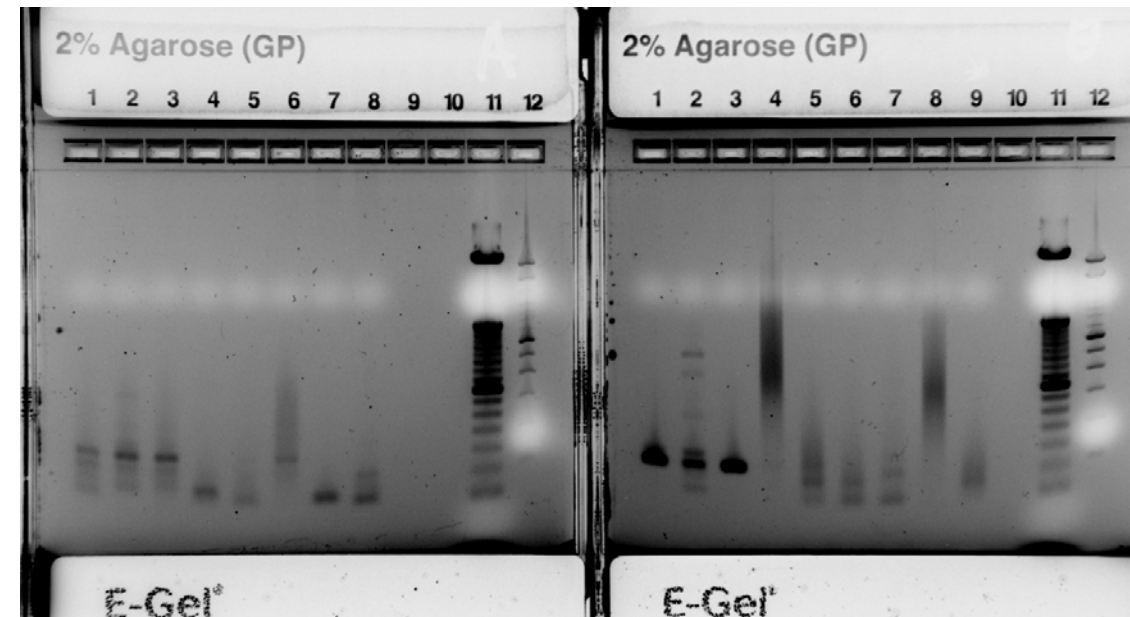


## Early Detection

- Inspectors search daily
- Volunteer detectors search monthly
- Veliger Tows
- Contracted diver searches at each boat launch
- Cutting edge eDNA detection



Figure 3. [left] Blue Water Science staff searching nearshore areas for zebra mussels. [right] Example of organisms found on a rock that are not zebra mussels.



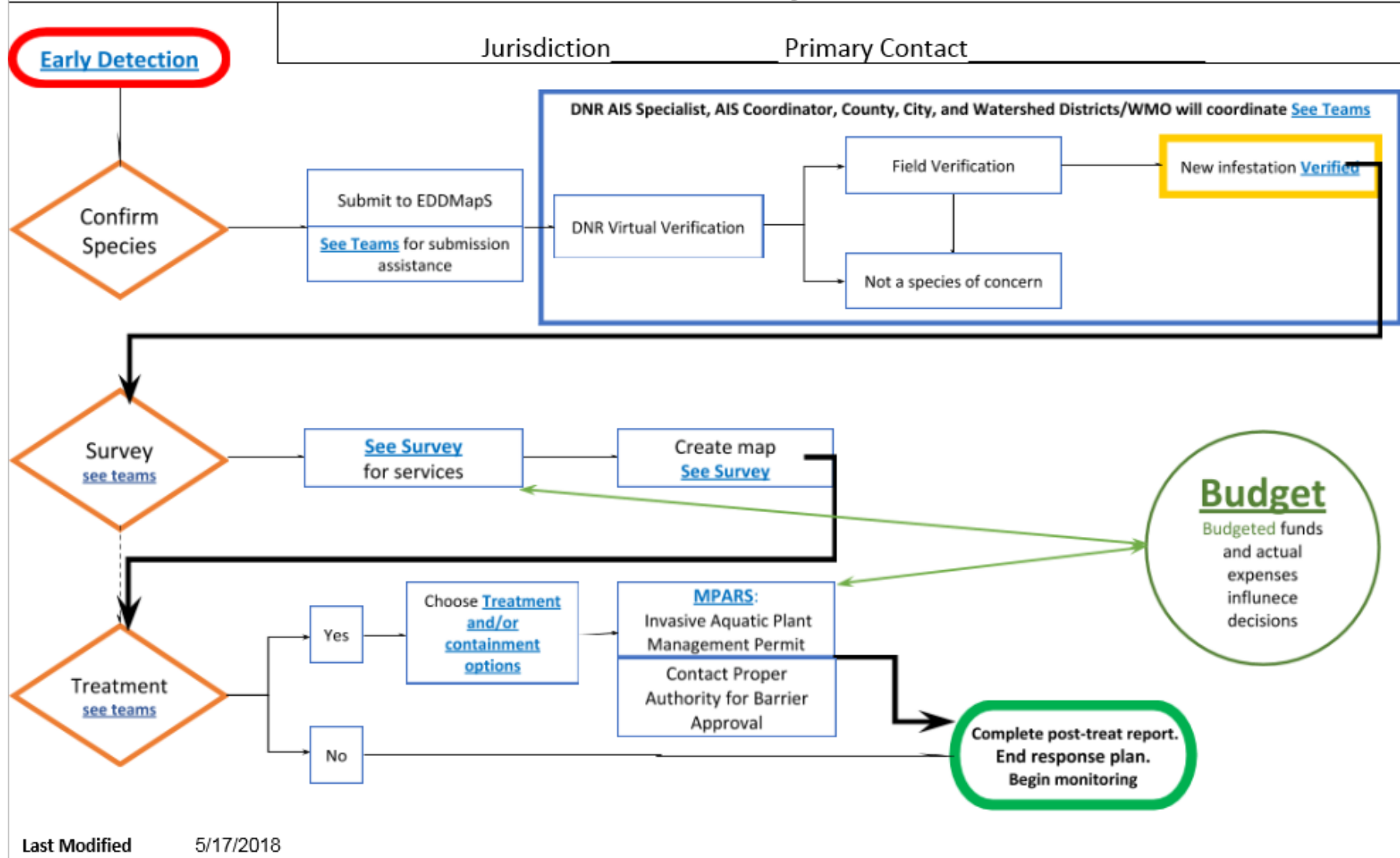
## Response

- Planning-developed the new infestation response plan
- Funding- contingency dollars via county prevention aid
- Collaborating-working proactively with lake associations, cities, and all stakeholders
- Bioassays to study chemical efficacy for zebra mussel treatment
- Working with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) on Eurasian Milfoil genotyping



# New Infestation Response Plan

Last Modified 5/17/2018



Last Modified 5/17/2018

Please follow the [Communication Plan](#) throughout this process

# Bottom Line

Invasions are hard to predict  
Watch your boats and lifts! Report new sightings

*Ramsey County will work with you to be a county of  
excellence in AIS prevention*