

June 13, 2022 Water Quality Strategy Committee

Terms and Meanings

General Water Quality

Alkalinity: a measure of the acid neutralizing capacity of water.

Conductivity: the measure of the ease at which an electric charge or heat can pass through a material.

Dissolved oxygen: a measure of how much oxygen is dissolved in the water - the amount of oxygen available to living aquatic organisms. Usually recorded in parts per million.

Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB's): the rapid growth of cyanobacteria that can cause harm to people, animals, or the local ecology. Cyanobacteria can look like foam, scum, paint, or mats on the surface of water and can be different colors. These blooms can produce toxins that make people and animals sick.

Nitrogen: can originate from many sources, most notably commercial fertilizers applied to lawns, gardens and cropland, livestock manure, pet waste, septic systems, and leaking sewers.

pH: an expression of hydrogen ion concentration in water. Ranges from 0 (Base) – 14 (Acid), with 7.0 being neutral.

Phosphorus: Phosphorus may be found in water in both urban and agricultural settings. Phosphorus tends to attach to soil particles and, thus, moves into surface-water bodies from runoff. Known as the limiting nutrient in freshwater systems as it is directly correlated with plant growth. Usually recorded in parts per million.

Temperature: exerts a major influence on biological activity and growth, has an effect on water chemistry, can influence water quantity measurements, and governs the kinds of organisms that live in water bodies

Water Quality Sampling

Automatic sampler (Van Dorn bottle): allows samples to be taken at different water depths. The horizontal design of the bottle makes it ideal for sampling in stratified waters or areas with predominant currents.

Minnow trap: small fish traps that typically consist of two funnel-shaped entrances at either end of a mesh box or cylinder.

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Plankton net/tow: equipment used for collecting samples of plankton in standing bodies of water.

Secchi disk: used to measure water transparency or turbidity in bodies of water. The disc is lowered slowly down in the water and the depth at which the disk is no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water. This measure is known as the Secchi depth and is related to water turbidity.

Other

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate: "Aquatic" means water, "macro" means large (to see without using a microscope), and "invertebrate" means without a backbone. An aquatic macroinvertebrate is a large enough see to with a naked eye.

Non point source pollution: water pollution that does not originate from a single discrete source.

Point source pollution: an identifiable source of pollution.

Water Quality: describes the condition of the water, including chemical, physical, and biological characteristics, usually with respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

Watershed: the land area where water runoff is channeled a specific waterbody.

Resources for your lake:

Adirondack Lake Assessment Program: <https://www.adklakes.org/>

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program: <https://adkinvasives.com/>

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81576.html>

New York Invasive Species Information Clearinghouse: <https://nyis.info/>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Harmful Algae Bloom resource page: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

New York State Federation of Lake Associations: <https://nysfola.org/>

Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District: <https://warrenswcd.org/>