

Tomahawk Lake AIS Control Grant for 2015

Quarterly Report

Quarter No. 2

July 1st, 2015 – September 30, 2015

The following quarterly report documents the major activities that were undertaken during the second quarter of the Tomahawk Lake AIS Control Grant for 2015. Subsequent quarterly reports will be forwarded as they are generated per the grant agreement.

The second quarter of the grant period contained activities that represented the continuation of this one year grant. Activities included:

2015 First “Sentinels” Eurasian Water Milfoil Volunteer Survey:

The Tomahawk Lake associations sentinels AIS monitoring group performs two full watershed Eurasian water milfoil monitoring sessions per summer season. The first of these surveys takes place in late June, with data submitted in the first week of July. This data is collected and organized and mapped for use by the Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS) team for locating EWM harvesting sites. Each of the “Sentinels” surveys include the surveying of 16 separate sections within the watershed. Both existing and new EWM site data are collected and mapped using GPS data collectors to map and store the data. Each Sentinel sector team includes the boat driver and one or more technicians who search for the EWM infestations. Both sightings by visual means and by rake toss are utilized by each team.

2015 Post Treatment Point Intercept (P.I.) Survey:

The post-treatment point intercept survey for the 2015 chemical treatment application was performed in early July following the late may treatment.

Survey results since indicate a high degree of success for control and reduction of EWM within the designated polygons. A total of only 12 of the 59 points included in the post treatment point intercept survey included EWM, which is down from 35 in the initial pretreatment survey. This represents a 65.13% reduction of EWM in infested polygons. In addition the survey indicates a substantial loss of EWM plant density within the point intercept included in the survey. Additionally the chemical treatments had minimal detrimental effects upon the native plant community as measured by statistical analysis performed in the survey workbooks.

The 2015 aquatic plant management report submitted to the WDNR in the end of December better details the total effects of the chemical applications undertaken in the end of May of 2015

Hydraulic Conveyor Harvesting and Season Conclusion:

On the first Monday of June operations of it TLA hydraulic conveyor system began for the summer season of 2015. Harvesting operations continued uninterrupted through the Monday following the Labor Day weekend.

The 2015 HCS season was the most successful in TLA history, setting an all-time drained weight harvesting volume of 24,765 pounds from 114 sites. Approximately 65,000 ft.² of surface area was included in the harvested areas. In addition by-catch data for the 2015 season indicates 93.19% of all plants harvested where the target EWM plants.

2016 Clean Boats Clean Waters Boat Ramp Monitoring/Education and Conclusion”

The Tomahawk Lake associations clean boats clean waters ramp education program which began in late May continued through the rest of the summer, including all major summer holidays and concluded the Monday following the Labor Day weekend. All of the ramp data collected by ramp attendants for the summer season was entered into the swims system per clean boats clean waters protocols.

Second “Sentinels” Eurasian Water Milfoil Volunteer Survey:

In the last week of July and the first week of August the TLA "Sentinels" AIS monitoring group performs the second Sentinel EWM full watershed survey. The data from this survey is collected, and a second full watershed EWM site map is produced. This map contains the sentinels survey sites for both the first and second survey and is again given to the HCS dive team, as well as TLA's professional surveyor for use in the 2016 pretreatment point intercept survey. This map is also included in the aquatic plant management report to the WDNR for the year. This second Sentinel map containing both surveys is a critical tool for use by TLA's professional surveyor, as each site location is visited and evaluated prior to the establishment of chemical treatment polygons for the following spring.

2016 Pre-Treatment P.I. Survey (In Preparation for 2016 Chemical Treatment)

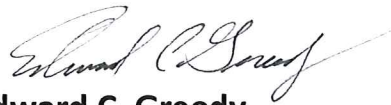
In the first and second week of September the TLA professional surveyor performs a pretreatment AIS/EWM survey to establish potential treatment sites for chemical treatments that will take place in May of the following spring.

This is a two-part survey with which the surveyor, utilizing site location data from the sentinels group, information gained from lake users and riparian owners, and the surveyor's own historical perspective uses first to locate, examine and evaluate potential sites for chemical treatment. A number of tools are used by the surveyor to determine whether a site meets the criterion established for chemical treatment including but not limited to rake toss, visual sightings, and underwater photography. Based upon the site evaluations, the surveyor establishes the perimeter of those sites chosen for chemical treatment and utilizing GPS/GIS, establishes treatment polygons for proposal to the WDNR for the following spring.

In the second part of the survey the TLA surveyor establishes a series of point intercept locations within each of the proposed polygons which will provide comparative data for pre-and post-treatment aquatic plant surveys. Once these points have been established the surveyor performs an aquatic plant point intercept survey of all included plants within these points per WDNR protocols

established by the UW Aquatic Plant Management Guide. The completed P.I. survey is the first pretreatment survey which is reported in the year-end aquatic plant management report, and from which the initial WDNR Chemical Treatment Permit Applications for the following spring are prepared and submitted.

This completes the activities report for the second quarter of the Tomahawk Lake AIS control grant for 2015. Please feel free to ask any questions or make comments at your first convenience.



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