2015 Tomahawk Lake Association Hydraulic Conveyor System Harvesting Report

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2015 Hydraulic Conveyor System Final Harvesting Report

The summer harvesting season of 2015 was a continuation in the Hydraulic Conveyor System's (HCS) program development, building upon the strong operational base established in the initial summer of HCS operation in 2009. Continued refinement of operational protocols has taken place over its years of operation, but the overall goal of the HCS continues to be for the purposes that it was designed for; removing new, previously undiscovered points of infestation of EWM. It is by removing these newly discovered infestation sites that the goal of stopping or greatly reducing the spread of EWM before it becomes established may be realized.

Concept & Design:

The concept and design of the HCS is to remove EWM from specific areas where treatment by other means is not feasible or advisable. The HCS is designed to remove EWM in areas of new infestation where the size of the new outbreak is small enough to preclude chemical treatment, and where the diver can remove the entire outbreak before it spreads or becomes established to the point where it adversely affects the native plant and animal community. In addition, the HCS works well in areas where other treatment regimes cannot be used effectively. These areas include areas around and behind docks, areas under boathouses and other structures, and areas where the use of other treatments may adversely affect sensitive areas. A third use for the HCS, although not a use that was anticipated when the concept and design were under development is in locations where chemical treatments have proved ineffective, and where the risk of EWM propagation from fragmentation is high. This includes areas of high EWM density that are susceptible to high boat traffic.

Historical Perspective:

Historically, the HCS system has been remarkably consistent in its seasonal harvesting results, with the environmental factors of early season water temperatures and the resulting degree of plant development during the month of June being the determining factors.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of sites	88	101	89	81	106	149
Seasonal drained weight	18,725	18,301	22,507	17,699	20,311	20,679
Approximate area (in sq. ft.)	28,435	21,555	64,243	30,401	34,250	62,090
EWM selectivity (bi-catch)	89%	91.98%	92.73%	91.75%	93.58%	93.19%

Limiting Factors of Success:

Of the four elements noted above that we have reported on a yearly basis, only "Seasonal Drained Weight" gives an accurate measure of the program's progress, as it is an actual representation of what the HCS system accomplished during it's time of seasonal operation. The other two measures of harvesting; "Number of Sites" & Approximate Area (in Square Feet") do not represent any accurate measure of success because they are simply indicators of EWM plant density, and the homogenous nature of the beds harvested. In beds that are more homogenous (higher density of EWM vs. other plant species), relatively more daily drained weight is harvested in less square footage. In beds that have a more diverse plant community, the amount of daily drained weight is less because the rate of harvest is slowed in order to only harvest the target species (EWM).

Over time (several seasons), it is possible that the number of higher density beds requiring HCS harvesting could decrease in favor of less dense beds with more plant diversity. As this trend happens, the daily drained weight of harvested EWM would fall as the harvesting is slowed and the number of EWM plants harvested decreases. In practice however, the size of the watershed is so great that the emergence of new & dense beds of EWM at new locations seems to overshadow the elimination of high density older beds. It seems that there are always new & dense beds to harvest.

2014 Harvesting Results:

The following results were obtained during the 2015 harvesting season:

Number of sites: 114 sites (see Table #1)

Seasonal drained weight: 24,765# (see Table 2)

Approximate Area Searched (in sq. ft.): 65,225 Sq. Ft. (see Table #1)

EWM selectivity (bi-catch): 93.19% (see Table #3)

Discussion:

Number of sites: Harvesting days in 2015 were decreased relative to earlier years

because both of our divers had graduated with their degrees, and were beginning new permanent employment in early September. With the relative shortened harvest days, fewer sites were able to

be harvested.

Seasonal drained Seasonal drained weight was higher than in previous years, due in

part to our lead diver's past experience in working on our HCS in previous years, and our good fortune to be able to employ a very accomplished second diver for the season. In addition, the number

of weather shortened harvesting days decreased over previous years, limiting down time due to weather. Down time due to mechanical failures was almost non-existent.

Fluctuations in drained weights tend to be a product of the number of harvested sites, as well as EWM site density. In 2015, the number of harvested sites was down, but EWM bed plant density relative to prior years was up.

2015 was a harvesting season which greatly favored EWM growth – early spring, rapid early water warm up, lots of sunny warm days, and good growing weather lasting past Labor Day.

Approximate Area:

"Approximate Area" Searched has no relevancy in understanding the nature of the annual harvest, because the plant density within the harvested sites has no "baseline" value. There can be no comparatively valid conclusions drawn between a 100 square foot area with 10 EWM plant clusters of 10 stems per cluster, and a 100 square foot highly dense bed with 50 stems per square foot.

Bi-Catch:

Bi-Catch sampling provides a snapshot in time of diver efficiency in 1. plant identification and 2. ability to selectively harvest only the target species (EWM.) Over time, Bi-catch % of the target species should increase as diver skills in these areas develop. In 2014 the previous experience of our divers was a factor in our high harvesting efficiency.

Conclusion:

The Tomahawk Lake Association believes that the 2015 HCS harvesting season was successful in the control and reduction of new EWM outbreaks within the watershed. Over time the goal of the HCS is to reduce both the number and size of new EWM sites within the lake system. If we operated in a small watershed with limited access, our ability to meet these goals would be greatly enhanced. However, Tomahawk Lake's large sizes, diversity of the character of the lakebed, and the high degree of public usage of the resource all have a negative effect on attainment of these goals.

The Hydraulic Conveyor System is one element in a two tiered treatment regime in our effort to control and reduce the effects of Aquatic Invasive Species in our watershed. It is important to evaluate the program's successes by comparing year to year harvesting data. However, the comparison which would prove to be the most valid in evaluating the success or lack of success of the two tiered program cannot be made. That evaluation would include the comparison of the results of the two tiered treatment regime in our watershed, against the results of no treatment regime in our watershed. In that comparison I believe that our two tiered approach would be seen as a highly effective means of control.

In April of this year, I made a presentation of the Hydraulic Conveyor System in two of the many fine workshops at the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point. Eighteen different lake organizations which attended the workshops requested additional information about Tomahawk Lakes Hydraulic Conveyor program, and six groups from those associations traveled to Tomahawk Lake to see the HCS in action. Their response was very positive, and they all left our shores pondering the idea of replicating our program into theirs. I believe that the Hydraulic Conveyor Program is a concept that can aid both large and small organizations to manage and reduce the effects of Aquatic Invasive Species in inland lakes. I would like to thank the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin for being our consistent and enthusiastic partner in the development and operation of our Hydraulic Conveyor System.

Ned Greedy Executive Director Tomahawk Lake Association, Inc.

Tables

Indicate a "beginning to end" progression.

07/02/2015 0:00

07/02/2015 0:00

07/02/2015 0:00

40

41

42

45.83533

45.83079

45.82301

-89.68827

-89.68449

-89.6917

500

350

400

500 350

400

Table 1: HCS Harvested Site Data - 2015
Sites containing a "SqFt_Begin" figure followed by a site with a SqFt_Begin value of "0"

SqFt_Begin Harvest Date **SiteID** Latitude Longitude SqFt_Removed 06/02/2015 0:00 1 45.85062 -89.68673 5000 3500 45.85061 06/02/2015 0:00 2 0 0 -89.68578 3 800 800 06/03/2015 0:00 45.85049 -89.68254 06/03/2015 0:00 4 45.84989 -89.6833 0 0 5 06/03/2015 0:00 45.84492 -89.68678 1000 1000 6 0 06/03/2015 0:00 45.84498 -89.6875 0 06/04/2015 0:00 7 45.85016 0 0 -89.68583 8 45.85044 1200 1200 06/04/2015 0:00 -89.68561 06/05/2015 0:00 9 45.8502 -89.68527 0 0 06/05/2015 0:00 10 45.85014 -89.68571 2500 2500 06/08/2015 0:00 11 45.85063 -89.68684 800 800 12 45.84941 -89.68797 650 06/08/2015 0:00 650 13 45.84932 650 06/09/2015 0:00 -89.6882 650 06/09/2015 0:00 13 45.84936 0 0 -89.68792 06/10/2015 0:00 14 45.8497 -89.68829 450 450 06/10/2015 0:00 15 45.84306 -89.68089 600 600 06/12/2015 0:00 16 45.84753 -89.68695 1500 1500 06/12/2015 0:00 17 45.84737 -89.68715 0 0 400 06/15/2015 0:00 18 45.84961 -89.68826 400 06/16/2015 0:00 19 45.84963 250 250 -89.68822 06/16/2015 0:00 20 45.84995 -89.68653 0 0 06/16/3015 0:00 21 45.84992 -89.6869 850 850 06/17/2015 0:00 22 45.84987 -89.68697 400 400 23 06/17/2015 0:00 45.83461 -89.68819 1200 1200 24 45.83498 0 0 06/17/2015 0:00 -89.68835 06/17/2015 0:00 25 45.83537 -89.68833 250 250 350 06/18/2015 0:00 26 45.83539 -89.68829 350 06/18/2015 0:00 27 45.84319 -89.68104 750 750 06/19/2015 0:00 28 45.83538 -89.68835 400 400 29 06/19/2015 0:00 45.84743 0 0 -89.68724 06/22/2015 0:00 30 45.82257 -89.69332 200 200 06/23/2015 0:00 31 45.83109 -89.68442 450 450 06/23/2015 0:00 32 45.83232 -89.68314 600 600 06/14/2015 0:00 33 45.83135 -89.68166 1800 1800 34 06/26/2015 0:00 45.83223 -89.68333 950 950 06/29/2015 0:00 35 45.84647 -89.68764 1200 1200 06/30/2015 0:00 36 45.83055 -89.68494 750 750 06/30/2015 0:00 37 45.83055 -89.68473 0 0 45.82303 800 800 06/30/2015 0:00 38 -89.6917 07/01/2015 0:00 39 45.82303 -89.69173 1450 1450

07/03/2015 0:00	43	45.82306	-89.69168	425	425
07/07/2015 0:00	44	45.82292	-89.69187	850	850
07/08/2015 0:00	45	45.84164	-89.67393	2500	2500
07/08/2015 0:00	46	45.8409	-89.67418	0	0
07/08/2015 0:00	47	45.84234	-89.67392	250	250
07/08/2015 0:00	48	45.84586	-89.68664	1500	1500
07/08/2015 0:00	49	45.84641	-89.68762	0	0
07/09/2015 0:00	50	45.84632	-89.68745	2000	2000
07/09/2015 0:00	51	45.84607	-89.68794	0	0
07/09/2015 0:00	52	45.82337	-89.69218	450	450
07/10/2015 0:00	53	45.8229	-89.69169	750	750
07/10/2015 0:00	54	45.81298	-89.67878	250	250
07/13/2015 0:00	55	45.81292	-89.67907	250	250
07/13/2015 0:00	56	45.81298	-89.68002	450	450
07/14/2015 0:00	57	45.82173	-89.65075	450	450
07/14/2015 0:00	58	45.823389	-89.69312	150	150
07/14/2015 0:00	59	45.82215	-89.69181	250	250
07/15/2015 0:00	60	45.81277	-89.67869	2200	2200
07/15/2015 0:00	61	45.81282	-89.6792	0	0
07/15/2015 0:00	62	45.81303	-89.67982	250	250
07/16/2015 0:00	63	45.81289	-89.68027	500	500
07/16/2015 0:00	64	45.81273	-89.67806	500	500
07/17/2015 0:00	65	45.82219	-89.69174	550	550
07/20/2015 0:00	65	45.82267	-89.69304	200	200
07/20/2015 0:00	66	45.8235	-89.69325	250	250
07/20/2015 0:00	67	45.81733	-89.69159	200	0
07/20/2015 0:00	68	45.81713	-89.69197	250	0
07/21/2015 0:00	69	45.84211	-89.6767	1100	1100
07/21/2015 0:00	70	45.84244	-89.67658	0	0
07/22/2015 0:00	71	45.81669	-89.69156	400	400
07/22/2015 0:00	72	45.82378	-89.69295	2500	2500
07/22/2015 0:00	73	45.82339	-89.69321	0	0
07/22/2015 0:00	74	45.82217	-89.69163	0	0
07/23/2015 0:00	75	45.82553	-89.68678	400	400
07/23/2015 0:00	76	45.82361	-89.69314	850	850
07/23/2015 0:00	77	45.82333	-89.69328	0	0
07/23/2015 0:00	78	45.82167	-89.69138	0	0
07/24/2015 0:00	79	45.82188	-89.69199	250	250
07/27/2015 0:00	80	45.81308	-89.68222	500	500
07/27/2015 0:00	81	45.83021	-89.68281	250	250
07/28/2015 0:00	82	45.81308	-89.6824	400	400
07/28/2015 0:00	83	45.81346	-89.68259	850	850
07/29/2015 0:00	84	45.83041	-89.68307	950	950
07/30/2015 0:00	85	45.83059	-89.68299	300	300
07/30/2015 0:00	86	45.83232	-89.68333	600	600
07/30/2015 0:00	87	45.8306	-89.68301	300	300
07/31/2015 0:00	88	45.83043	-89.68288	150	150
07/31/2015 0:00	89	45.84497	-89.68965	1500	1500
08/03/2015 0:00	90	45.83043	-89.68301	800	800
08/04/2015 0:00	91	45.83041	-89.683	450	450
	-				

08/04/2015 0:00	92	45.82986	-89.68399	300	300
08/05/2015 0:00	93	45.81728	-89.60104	550	550
08/05/2015 0:00	94	45.8175	-89.6013	0	0
08/05/2015 0:00	95	45.81647	-89.60182	500	500
08/06/2015 0:00	96	45.81712	-89.62782	1300	1300
08/11/2015 0:00	97	45.81622	-89.6919	250	250
08/11/2015 0:00	98	45.83676	-89.69176	400	400
08/11/2015 0:00	99	45.8322	-89.6834	400	0
08/12/2015 0:00	100	45.81744	-89.62785	800	800
08/13/2015 0:00	101	45.81707	-89.62875	0	0
08/17/2015 0:00	102	45.81736	-89.62756	1100	1100
08/18/2015 0:00	103	45.81379	-89.61113	650	650
08/18/2015 0:00	104	45.81736	-89.62838	250	250
08/19/2015 0:00	105	4581709	-89.62804	0	0
08/21/2015 0:00	106	45.81352	-89.68241	0	0
08/24/2015 0:00	107	45.82375	-89.65113	1300	1300
08/25/2015 0:00	108	45.82171	-89.65042	1100	1100
08/26/2015 0:00	109	45.81713	-89.62813	950	950
08/27/2015 0:00	110	45.81373	-89.68243	1250	1250
08/28/2015 0:00	111	45.81376	-89.68236	400	400
08/31/2015 0:00	112	45.81282	-89.67794	0	0
09/01/2015 0:00	113	45.81319	-89.68219	650	650
09/03/2015 0:00	114	45.81094	-89.63058	350	350

Table 2: 2015 periodic deliveries of HCS Harvested Eurasian Water Milfoil to the Town of Minocqua Waste Site

Date of delivery		Drained Weight (lbs.')	
	06/26/2015		3,242
	07/23/2015		6,663
	08/19/2015		8,892
	09/04/2015		5,968
Total			24,765

Table 3: 2015 Hydraulic Conveyor Bi-Catch Data

	Eurasian	Northern			Clasping				
	Water	Water	Elodea	Fern	Leaf	Coon	Southern		
Date	Milfoil	Milfoil	canadensis	Pondweed	Pondweed	Tail	Naiad	other	<u>Total</u>
06/02/2015	<u>91</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>			<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>100</u>
06/03/2015	<u>91</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>3</u>		<u>100</u>
06/04/2015	91		2	2		2	3		100
06/05/2015	94		2	1			2	1	100
06/08/2015	92		4			1	3		100
06/09/2015	94		3	3					100
06/10/2015	92	3	3			1		1	100
06/12/2015	91			2		1	6		100
06/15/2015	96	3						1	100
06/16/2015	92					1	4	3	100
06/17/2015	93	3	2	2					100
06/18/2015	95	4	1						100
06/19/2015	93	4	2	1					100
06/22/2015	95	3	1					1	100
06/23/2015	91	5	2			1		1	100
06/24/2015	92	4	2			1	1		100
06/26/2015	89	5	2			2	1	1	100
06/29/2015	88	6	2			3		1	100
06/30/2015	93	1	1				3	2	100
07/01/2015	95	3					2		100
07/02/2015	91	3					4	2	100
07/03/2015	94	3				1		2	100
07/07/2015	92	4				1	3		100
07/08/2015	94	1					3	2	100
07/09/2015	90		2	2		1	4	1	100
07/10/2015	94	3				3			100
07/13/2015	92		4	2		1		1	100
07/14/2015	95	1		3				1	100
07/15/2015	93		3			2	2		100
07/16/2015	96	1				3			100
07/17/2015	93		3			4			100
07/20/2015	92	3				3		2	100
07/21/2015	91	6	1				1	1	100
07/22/2015	91	2	4				2	1	100
07/23/2015	93	2	3					2	100
07/24/2015	94	3				2		1	100
07/27/2015	90		2	3		2	1	2	100

						_	_	_	
07/28/2015	90			4		2	2	2	100
07/29/2015	92		3	1		1	3		100
07/30/2015	90		4				6		100
07/31/2015	91		4			1	4		100
08/03/2015	92	1	2			1	4		100
08/04/2015	90		2				8		100
08/05/2015	90		4			2		4	100
08/06/2015	95		2			1		2	100
08/11/2015	92		3			3		2	100
08/12/2015	94	2				2		2	100
08/13/2015	90	3		2		3		2	100
08/17/2015	90	2	4	2		2			100
08/18/2015	90	2	4	2				2	100
08/19/2015	90	2	4			2		2	100
08/21/2015	94	2	1				2	1	100
08/24/2015	91	2	4					3	100
08/25/2015	91	1	2	4				2	100
08/26/2015	94	2	2	2					100
08/27/2015	94	1	2	2				1	100
08/28/2015	94	1	2			2		1	100
08/31/2015	91	1	2	3		2		1	100
09/01/2015	90	5				5			100
09/03/2015	93	4	1			1		1	100
	5531	110	109	45		67	80	58	
%/sample	93.19%	1.40%	1.79%	0.86%	0.30%	1.27%	0.57%	0.62%	











