

Citizen Lake Level Monitoring

2015 Bass Lake Report

Karen Gundelach

Goal: Long-term lake level monitoring to understand natural lake level fluctuations and guide management decisions

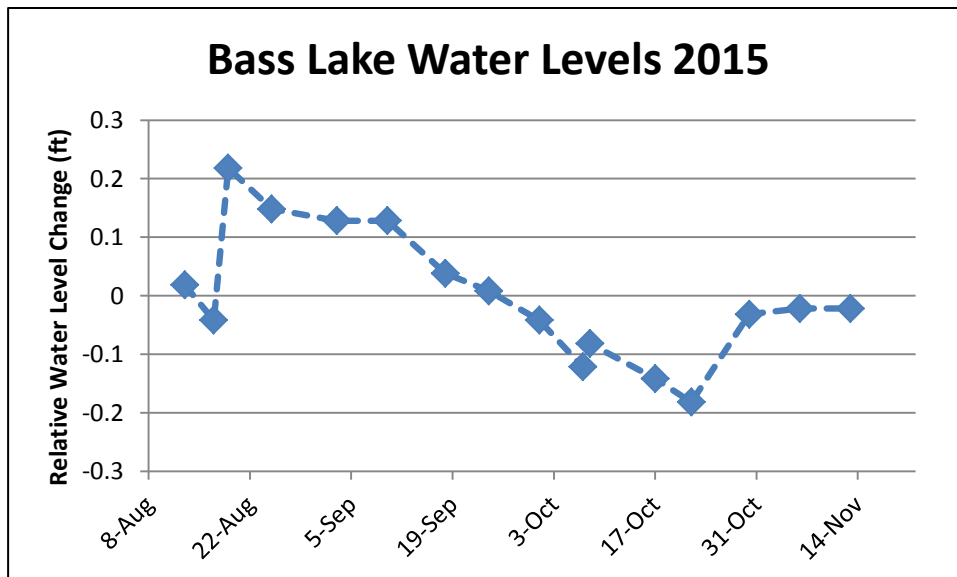
Bass Lake Quick Facts

Swims Station ID	10044027
WBIC	2901100
County	Bayfield
Area	81 Acres
Max Depth	43 feet
Hydrologic Lake Type	Seepage



2015 Results

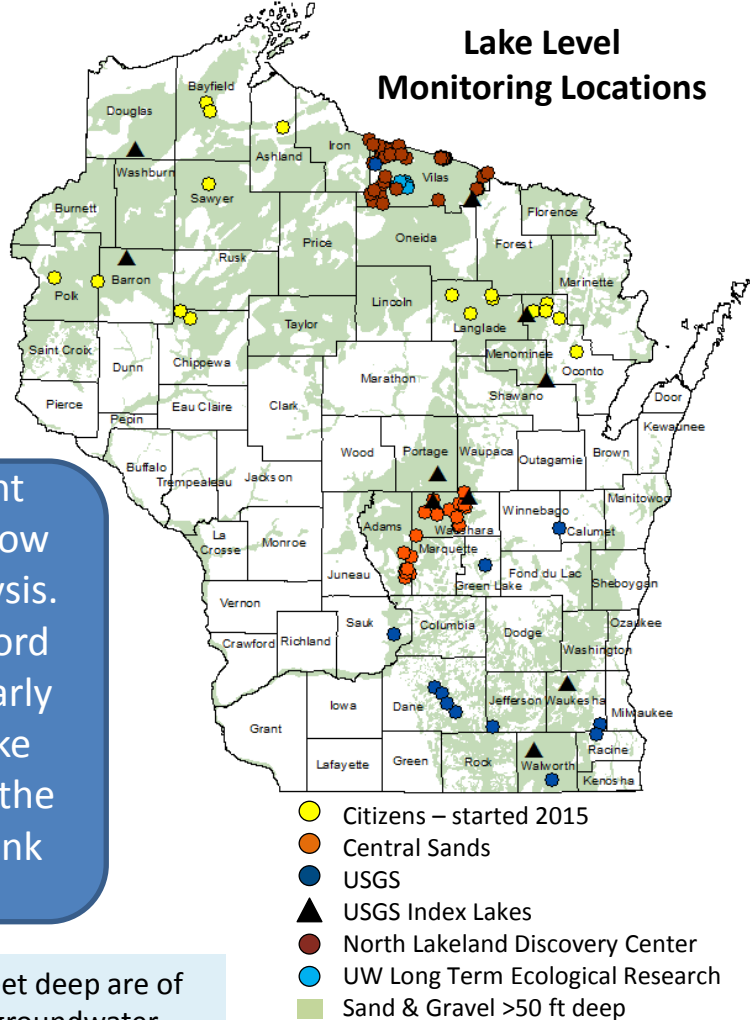
Most of the 17 lakes monitored in 2015 fluctuated 0.2 to 0.5 feet from July to November. The water level on Bass lake changed 0.4 feet from its highest to lowest level recorded. The graph below shows water levels on Bass Lake compared to the lake's seasonal average. For example, on August 19, the lake level was 0.22 feet above average.



Background: In 2015, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) developed a statewide volunteer lake-level monitoring program and began monitoring water levels on 17 new lakes. Counties and other partners installed staff gauges, and volunteers monitored lake levels. WDNR is seeking partners to monitor more lakes in 2016.



Consistent records allow trend analysis. Please record data regularly even if lake levels stay the same. Thank you!



Seepage lakes where sand and gravel is greater than 50 feet deep are of interest because they are more responsive to changes in groundwater

Why it Matters: Long-term data can address growing concern for lake health and recreation brought on by drought, groundwater withdrawals, precipitation and climate change.

Lake and groundwater well records in northern Wisconsin show that lake levels oscillate in unison every ~13 years and have been declining since 1998. Citizen monitoring will expand the number of lakes with long-term records and enable us to recognize future trends across the state.

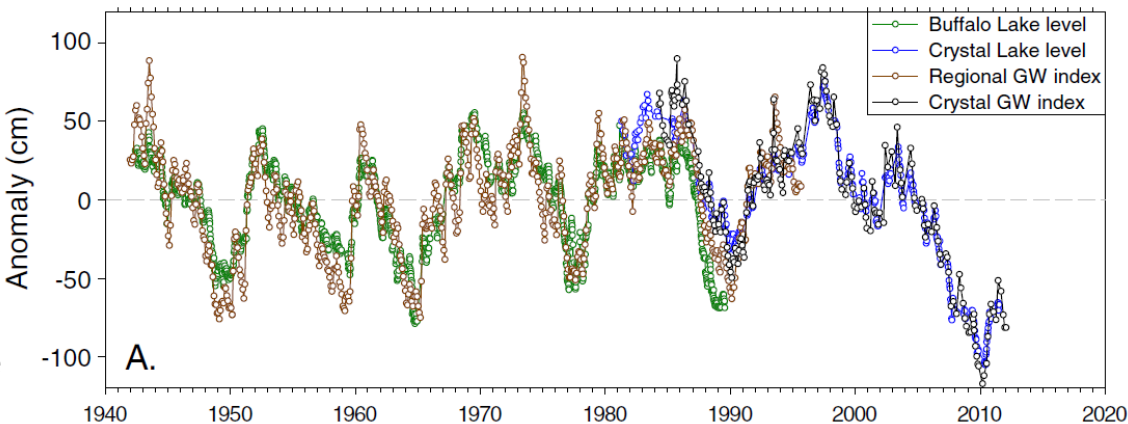


Figure from Watras et al. 2013 Geophysical Research Letters. GW = groundwater monitoring wells



Website: www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/
 Email: Catherine.Hein@wisconsin.gov
Joshua.wied@wisconsin.gov