Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) June Littoral Zone and Bed Mapping Surveys, and September Littoral Zone Survey and Herbicide Assessment Dive Survey Horseshoe Lake (WBIC: 2470000) Washburn County, Wisconsin



Project Initiated by: Horseshoe Lake Property Owners Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources





Surveys Conducted by and Report Prepared by: Endangered Resource Services, LLC Matthew S. Berg, Research Biologist St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin June 2 and September 1, 2012

# June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meandering Littoral Zone Survey:

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ed Wink and I conducted a meandering shoreline survey of the lake's visible littoral zone. We again found no plants in the west basin, but noted fragments had washed up at the public boat landing on the southeast side of the east basin. After touring the three known beds, we were disappointed to see that the 2011 Diquat treatment that had appeared to be a success was actually a failure. Plants that were completely pale and flopped over during our dive assessment in October of 2011 were all back and growing. The giant tower in Bed 1 on the north side of the lake looked as though it was never touched, and it was canopied and actively fragmenting. All the beds as originally mapped in June 2011 were intact, and what were only scattered plants in the past had merged into solid beds. Because of this, we expanded the original treatment area in all directions and merged Beds 1 and 2 into a single Bed (Table 1) (Figure 1) (Appendix I).

## Table 1: EWM Bed Mapping Survey Summary Horseshoe Lake, Washburn Co. June 2, 2012

Bed Number	June 2012 Area in Acres	June 2011 Area in Acres	Change in Area	June 2012 Est. Mean Rakefull
1 and 2	3.18	0.35	+2.83	<1-3
3	0.55	0.18	+0.37	<1-2
Total	3.73	0.53	+3.20	



Figure 1: Horseshoe Lake EWM Beds June 2, 2012

# June 29<sup>th</sup> Chemical Treatment:

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Dale Dressel with Northern Aquatics Services treated the two Beds with Navigate (2-4,D) at concentrations of 2.5ppm and 4.0ppm (Figure 2) (Appendix II).





### September 1<sup>st</sup> Meandering Littoral Zone Survey:

On the September 1<sup>st</sup>, my son Noah and I did a follow up search of the lake's visible littoral zone. Water clarity was fair, and we were able to see the bottom in up to 6ft of water. Although we searched around the perimeter of the entire lake, we saw no rooted EWM plants. We also saw no evidence of floating fragments of plants (Figure 3) (Appendix III).



Figure 3: Horseshoe Lake September 1, 2012 Littoral Transect Survey

## September 1<sup>st</sup> Dive Assessment Survey:

Noah and I used SCUBA to assess the treatment of the three beds. Starting at the marker buoys and expanding outward swimming 5-10m squares, we swam to the edge of the littoral zone near Beds 1 and 2 and out 50m from the center of Bed 3. We saw no evidence of any EWM plants or fragments with the exception of a single 4inch strand of rotten tissue where the tower was in Bed 1. The bottom in these areas was covered with large amounts of plant debris, but natives species (primarily Muskgrass (*Chara* sp.), White-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*), Large-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*), and Wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*)) were rapidly filling in the areas vacated by EWM.

#### **Future Management Considerations:**

Although the survey indicated exceptional control, this should not be taken to mean that EWM has been eradicated from the lake. It is highly likely that plants are growing in deeper water beyond what we or anyone else can see with the lake's current clarity. This will likely require any such new bed to canopy before it is discovered. Because of this, we continue to recommend early season meandering surveys to capitalize on the lake's usual improved clarity in May. We continue to expect that the most likely areas for EWM to reappear will be the areas of the east basin we identified in 2011.



Figure 4: Likely EWM Habitat for Future Monitoring

Appendix I: 2012 EWM Bed Map



Appendix II: 2012 EWM Treatment Record

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Appendix III: 2012 September Visible Littoral Zone Survey

