

Saratoga Lake Questions and Answers, 2015 CSLAP

Q1. What is the condition of our lake this year?

A1. Water clarity in Saratoga Lake was slightly higher than usual, consistent with lower algae levels. Nutrient levels were higher than usual, although these readings may not have been representative of conditions in the lake. Shoreline blue green algae blooms were documented in mid- and late-summer.

Q2. Is there anything new that showed up in the testing this year?

A2. Chloride sampling results were typical of lakes with high levels of road salt runoff, although no biological impacts were reported or measured.

Q3. How does the condition of our lake this year compare with other lakes in the area?

A3. Saratoga Lake has slightly higher water clarity, and lower open water algae levels, than other nearby lakes, although shoreline blooms were reported.

Q4. Are there any trends in our lake's condition?

A4. pH has decreased significantly over the last two decades, coincident with lower algae levels over the same timeframe. Water temperatures have also increased slightly.

Q5. Should we be concerned about the condition of our lake? Are we close to a tipping point?

A5. Saratoga Lake has exhibited some shoreline blue green algae blooms and, elevated open water blue green algae levels at times. It is likely that reductions in nutrient loading to the lake will reduce the likelihood of these blooms.

Q6. Are any actions indicated, based on the trends and this year's results?

A6. Individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to the water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties and runoff into the lake are needed to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since the lake is at risk for new invaders given the heavy use of the lake.

