

Schroon Lake (South Basin) Questions and Answers, 2015 CSLAP

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

A1. The condition of Schroon Lake appeared to be close to normal in 2015. Each of the primary water quality indicators (chlorophyll *a*, phosphorus and water clarity) was close to the long-term average, although a small ephemeral shoreline bloom (perhaps a blue green bloom) was reported in the south basin in 2015..

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

A2. Chloride testing results were typical of lakes with low impacts from road salt runoff, and no biological impacts were measured or reported.

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

A3. Schroon Lake had similar water clarity, but slightly lower algae and nutrient levels, than other nearby lakes. It is not known if aquatic plant coverage was similar to the plant coverage in many of these lakes, most likely due to highly variable conditions across much of the lake.

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

A4. Recreational assessments have improved slightly, despite relatively stable water quality conditions and assessments.

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

A5. The CSLAP data indicates a low susceptibility to shoreline algae blooms, but an apparent bloom was reported in the south basin in 2015. While it is not likely that this was triggered by localized nutrient sources, any potential nearby nutrient sources (eroding soils, poor septic management, over-fertilization) should be evaluated.

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 will help to improve lake conditions by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since nearby lakes harbor several invasive plants not found in the lake.

