Schroon Lake Invasive Species Reconnaissance 2018

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The 2018 Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) survey of Schroon Lake is a continuation of our four year partnership with the Schroon Lake Association. The EWM survey parameters included us snorkeling and scuba diving approximately 10ft apart throughout the littoral zone of the chosen sites. The survey consisted of snorkeling the shallow areas of plant growth to scuba diving to the deepest point of plant growth. Throughout each site surveyed, the EWM plant locations were mapped using a Garmin GPS. After each survey day, a report and map of GPS EWM locations were sent to both the SLA and Invasive Solutions Dive Co., LLC. The sites surveyed were chosen through a combination of the SLA Board Members, the Lake Manager suggestions, areas with extensive littoral zones, high nutrient areas at tributary outlets and a focus on sites not yet surveyed. The following is a compilation of our daily reports, GPS EWM location maps and site descriptions.

July 20th EWM Report

WOL Ranch- We surveyed the east and west shores inside the 5 mph buoys and removed five single stem scattered EWM plants. These were the only EWM plants observed in this area. This area has lush native milfoil growth as well as other native plants.

West of Brill Island- This is a known area from last years survey and we only observed and removed five single stem EWM plants. This area looks to have been harvested last year.

North west side of Brill Island in channel- At the three mapped GPS points, approximately 100 yards off the island, we observed a 20x100ft dense bed of mature multi-stem EWM plants in 10-12 ft water depth. This area is very rocky and smaller single stem EWM plants are growing on the perimeter of the bed in depths of 15 ft. This bed is in the channel with heavy boat traffic.

July 21st EWM Report

Brill Island Perimeter- We continued our survey around Brill Island and only observed and removed three EWM plants.

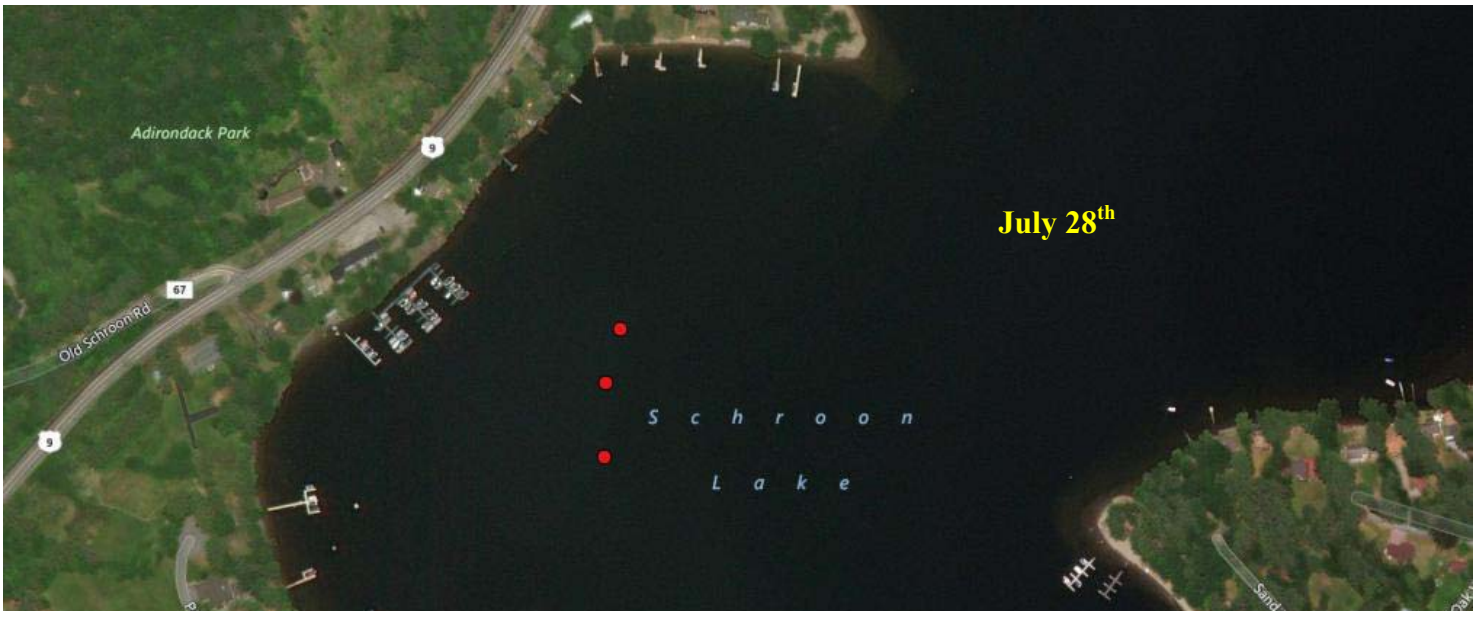
WOL Lodge- Approximately 150 yards off the gabion rock wall we have two mapped GPS locations outlining a dense bed of mature EWM plants. North of the mapped GPS points, we observed numerous scattered EWM plants for approximately 200 yards. This area has very poor visibility and native milfoil plants as well.

July 28th EWM Report

Thurman Pond Outlet North & South: This area has lush native plant growth around the delta with very sparse growth outside the delta. Outside the delta the soils are also a heavy clay. No EWM was observed during our survey of this area.

The Narrows around danger buoys: We surveyed this location early during very low boat traffic. This is a very sandy location and we surveyed around the edge of the delta. No EWM was observed during the survey.

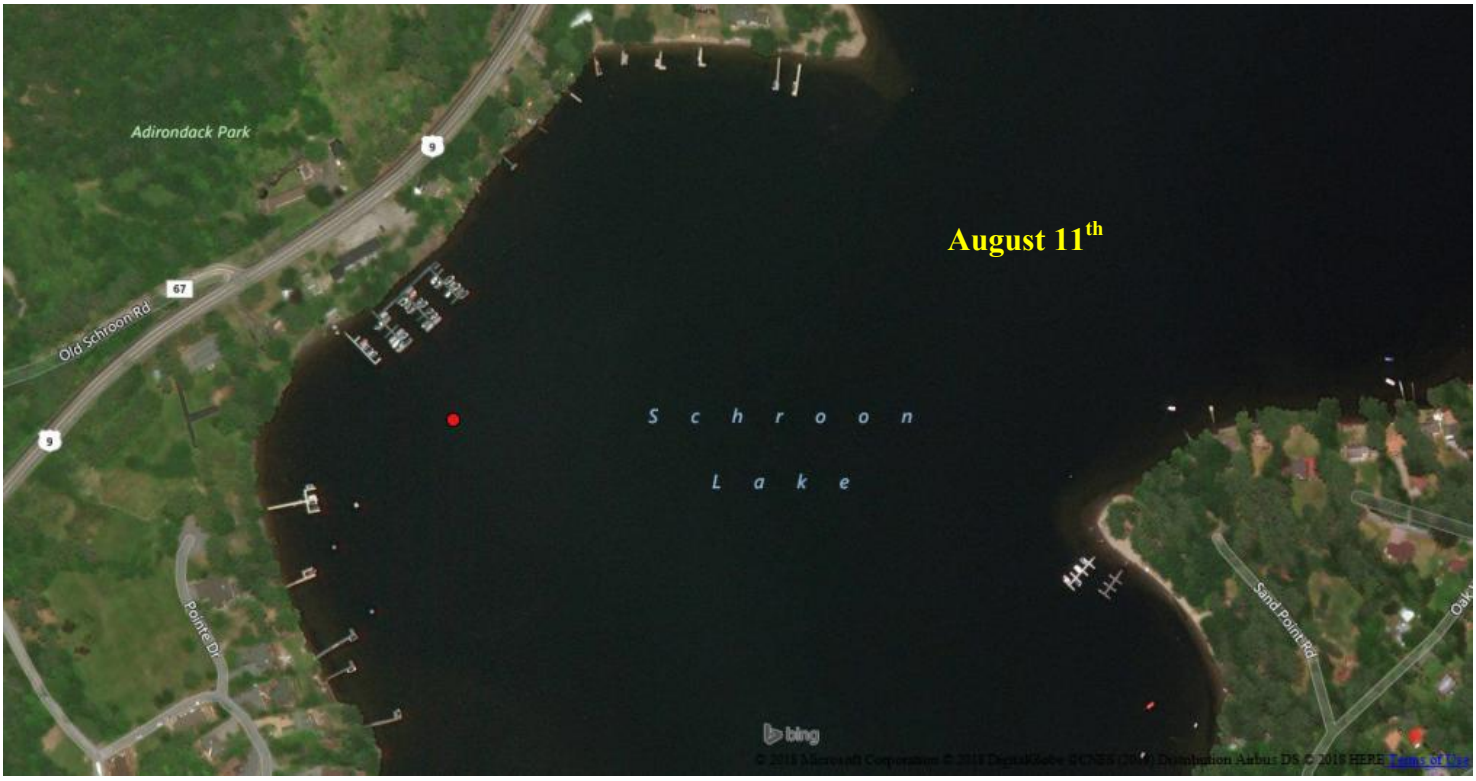
Edge Water: While there was low boat traffic, we surveyed the outside deeper parts of the bay. We observed approximately 100 widely scattered EWM plants at the three mapped GPS points in 8ft depth of water. The plants are both muli-stem and single stem younger plants. This area has very poor visibility, lush native growth with native milfoil as well. We will finish this bay during the next survey.



August 11th EWM Report

Edge Water (shallows): We finished surveying the shallow sections inside the Edge Water bay. In the attached GPS map, we observed 30-40 EWM pants in approximately 6ft depth. The EWM plants are widely scattered around the GPS point and are mostly single-stem. This area has poor visibility with tall native plants including native milfoil.

Acker Brook North & South: We surveyed north and south of the Acker Brook outlet and this area has very lush and diverse native plant growth with good visibility. There is tall native milfoil in this area and no EWM was observed during the survey.



August 12th EWM Report

Gulf Course Point & Sugar Hill to Gull Point: This area has a large littoral zone with tall native milfoil growing in the Gulf Course Point area. Only one EWM plant was observed and removed during the survey.

Sucker Brook: Limited growth in this area and no EWM plants were observed during the survey.

Meadow Cove deep section: This area has very dense lush native growth. We surveyed the deeper sections of the cove and approximately 30 widely scattered EWM plants were observed. The EWM plants were very young small plants growing in approximately 8ft depths. We will finish surveying the shallow sections of the cove this coming weekend.

August 18th & 19th EWM Report

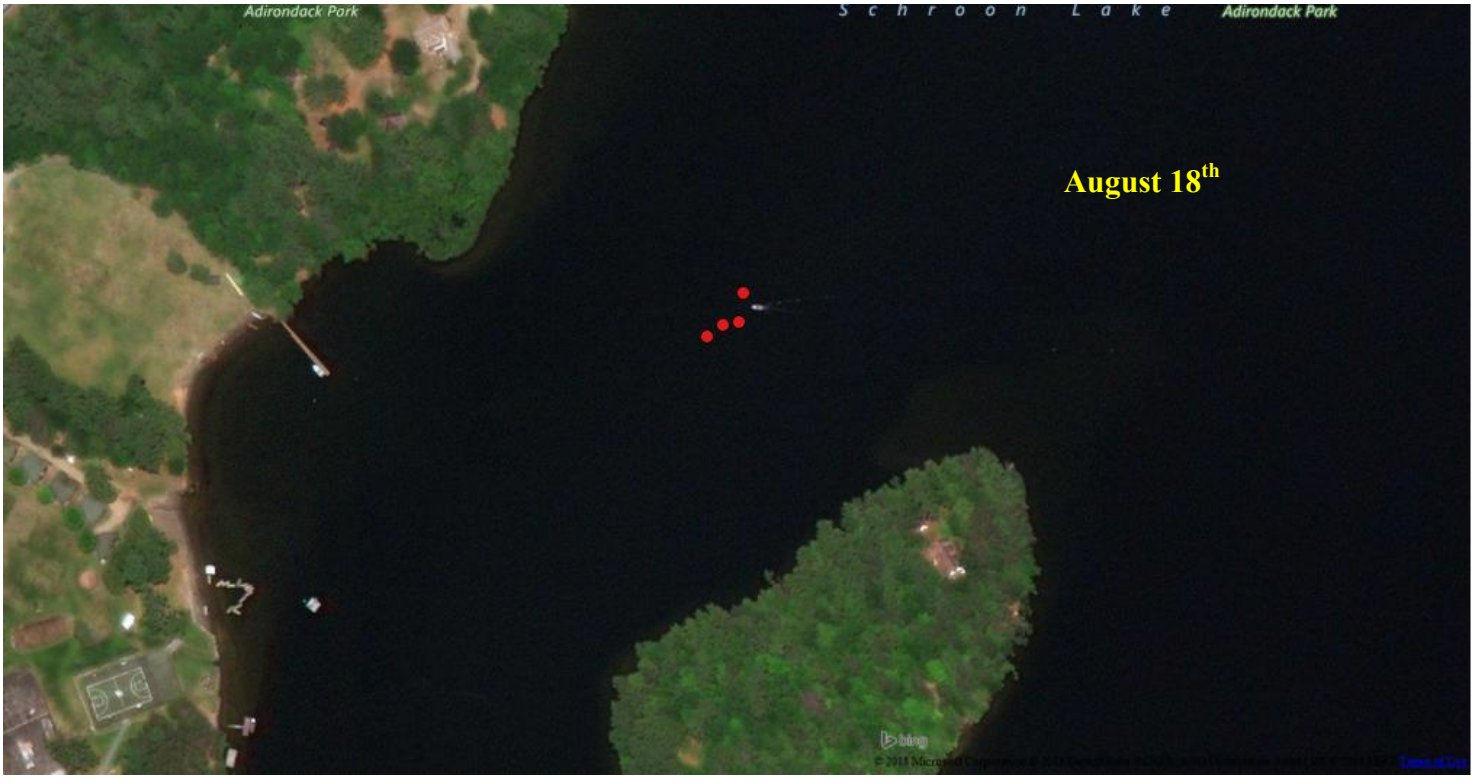
South Eagle Point: We surveyed a long sandy ridge extending out over a hundred yards off the south end of Eagle Point. This is a new location we found on aerial imagery and no EWM was observed during the survey.

West of Brill: We noticed on the Invasive Solutions harvest map that their GPS locations were slightly north of our survey location so we checked the site while heading to Eagle Point. We noticed our survey site still had EWM but we also found a ridge north of our survey site. Come to find out after talking with Invasive Solutions, they found a different EWM site just north of our survey site and they will be going back to harvest our survey site. We are providing the GPS data with this report as well as maps. The channel west of Brill Island has a rocky ridge near the center of the channel that EWM has been able to establish on.

Devils Rock: This area is much larger than we expected and has diverse plant growth on the west and north side. This location has native milfoil and no EWM was observed during the survey. Being in the center of the lake with good plant growth and high boat traffic, this is an area to keep and eye on in the future.

South of Gull Point: This is a very large littoral zone extending into the lake. This area is very sandy with sparse growth. No EWM was observed during the survey.

Skylark: This area has an extensive littoral zone that extends well out into the channel. At the mapped GPS points, we observed at least 200-300 scattered EWM plants approximately 400 yards from shore. The EWM is growing in 12ft depths. This area is very large with high boat traffic and will need additional surveying east of the GPS points. We took numerous GPS points following a line of scattered EWM plants. The GPS data and maps are also attached with this report.



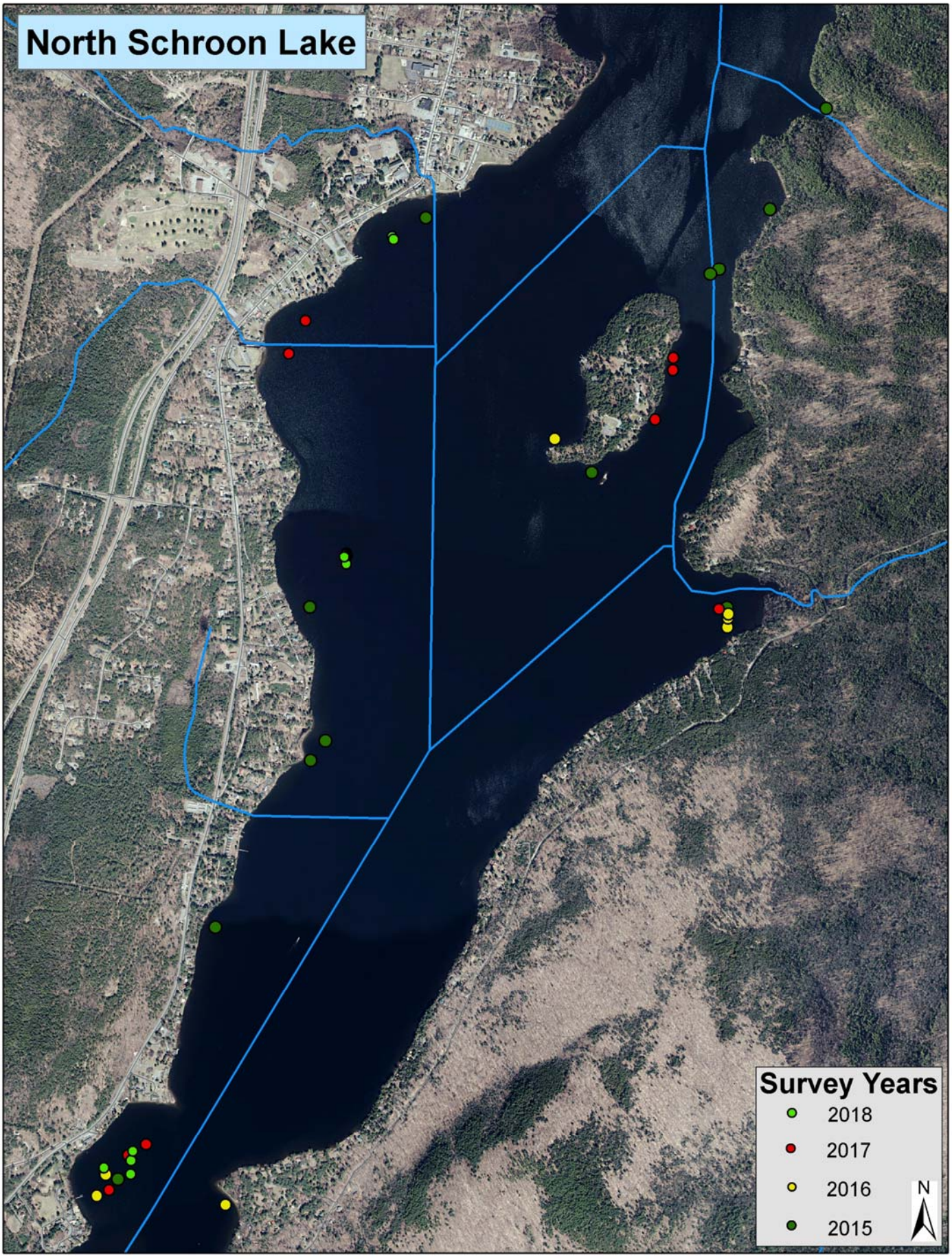
Over the past four years, our overall observation of the known EWM sites and littoral zone areas in Schroon Lake have come to a similar conclusion; the presence of widely scattered, single stem and low density populations throughout the majority of the previously harvested locations.

During this years survey season we concentrated on areas with in the lakes that have previously been harvested, reported by the scout program or were found to have abundant native vegetation. The lake has approximately 25 miles of shoreline, a surface area of 6.4 mi^2, of which 20% or 1.3mi^2 is littoral zone. This past season we scouted in areas with higher probabilities of regrowth, lake sections previously unassessed (by us) and locations where EWM was observed and reported to us. From the observations made during the survey the concentrations of EWM within the overall aquatic plant community continues to be very low. As you will see when the year end harvest totals are published, over half of all the plants removed from the lake came from two locations; one between site 4 and Brill Island; the second being a newly found area close to site 14 well off shore and north of Grove Point. Our survey consisted of 7 days totaling 40 hours and 6 EWM locations were GPS mapped.

For 2019, we would recommend surveying the areas of the west shore that have not been surveyed or surveyed during the first year, the far north western bay and especially the bays with large littoral zones in the mid-lake area. Nick will be using multiple aerial images and different shadings in an attempt to locate previously unknown or unmarked shallow areas in the lake similar to the two new areas located over the past couple of seasons.

We would like to thank the Schroon Lake Association for an outstanding multi-year partnership.

And a thumbs up from Bob! ⟶


North Schroon Lake
Survey Years
2018
2017
2016
2015
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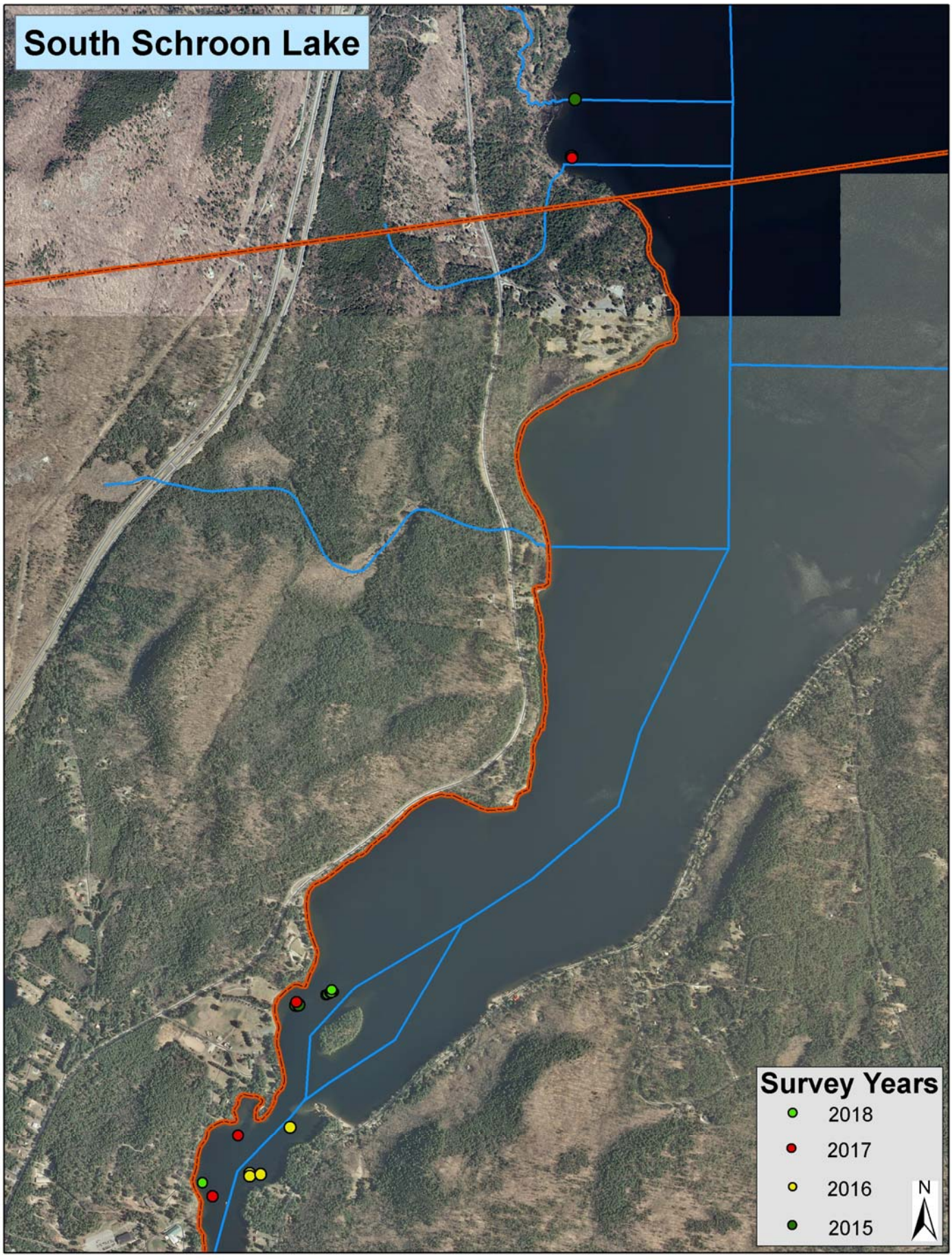
South Schroon Lake
Survey Years
2018
2017
2016
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