

## Schroon Lake Milfoil Observations: 09/16/2013

### Skylark Ave Area:

Following a report from Mr. Granger that Steve Lamere had located *M. spicatum* at locations adjacent to Skylark Ave, I started my swim-over approximately 200 meters south of the private Skylark Association beach and moved north approximately 100 meters. I found a large pile of debris (long timbers) from either an old piling or from timber harvests gone by; among the logs in waters from 10-15' deep were a number of tall single or dual stemmed *M. spicatum* plants. I found widely scattered EWM north of this small patch to Grove Point. The plant cover in the area observed was very sparse and bottom sediments were soft and fine (silt/clay mix), which allows for easy root removal. All the plants seen in this section were single or two stem plants (primary growth).

### North of Grove Point to bay north of The Landings:

Visibility was fair over most of the surveyed areas, *Myriophyllum spicatum* was very widely dispersed amongst what was a very healthy population of *M. sibiricum* (native milfoil), *Elodea Canadensis* and *Potamogeton robbinsii* in the area. Less than 10 plants were seen in the observation swimover.

Near shore shallow areas have sand and small pebble bottom sediment, with water depths of 3' or less, have sparse populations of *Lobelia dortmanna*, *Nuphar luteum*, *M. tenellum* and *Sagittaria graminea*. In waters of 3 feet and greater (out to 15 feet of depth) approximately half the bottom is devoid of macrophytes altogether with the other half having widely scattered cover of native plants, including *Nitella* sp., *Najas* sp., *P. robbinsii*, *E. Canadensis*, and several other at a less frequency.

The 100 meter area north of the Landings channel that was harvested in week 3 has been reduced considerably, what had been an area of scattered EWM with a small dense patch approximately 15' X 30' yielded 3 bags of harvested plants. The dense area now contains a few hundred plants one foot or shorter (re-growth). The area of scattered plants would be considered cleared.

### Terra Alta:

No plants were observed during this section of swim-over. I swam the southeast edge of the bay along the heavy emergent plant growth and saw no EWM plants. Moving from east to west along the shallow areas to the shore near Terra Alta I found no EWM, the steep drop to very dark waters suggest a poor growing medium and having limited reference points to where the EWM was found

### Bay South of Talachita:

This is a large area with many sizable boulders and exposed ledge, nearly all of this bay would be considered in the littoral zone. With that said the concentration of EWM plants found in this swim-over the area would be deemed cleared.

### Clark Island:

North tip along entire east shore

Observations for the Clark Island harvesting ran from the north tip of the island along the entire east shore. Approximately 1500 feet south of the northern tip of the island the remains of a small patch of *M. spicatum* has been reduced to scattered plants, this area has a shoreline with

exposed banks of clay. Turbidity from the clay banks limits visibility in this area to just a couple of feet. The *M. spicatum* plants are heavily fouled with clay and very difficult to distinguish. A concentration of milfoil was seen approximately 500 feet south of the clay bank in the area of the WOL barge dock. This area will require further harvesting next year. The final 1000 feet of shoreline yielded a few single stemmed *M. spicatum* plants.

## General Notes:

As we look at these notes keep in mind that the last observation swim-over was in the area of 2,000 meters (6,600 feet) in length. When you're snorkeling much of Schroon Lake you have a field of view of maybe 10 feet on each side.

We swim a random zigzag pattern with depth, growth medium (bottom sediments) and plant concentrations as the guide. EWM will be missed during swimovers and missing a bed as large as a football field is conceivable if it is more than 25 feet to either side. This is due to the random sampling that is conducted, this is not likely but it is possible.

This points out the necessity of the on going scout program, and the need to have residents report any suspected EWM sightings. Whether it's to a scout, the lake associations or to town officials; and that these reports are passed on to either my office or to AIM so these suspected areas can be investigated. Schroon Lake has a relatively small littoral zone (plant zone) when compared to the overall surface area of the lake, but not when looking for a single species of plant.

Contact with the crews while working should be kept to a minimum for obvious safety reasons! Remember all boats are to stay at least 100' from a dive flags.