UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Water Resources

Invasive Species Eradication in the Lakes Region

Situation:

Water quality in the Lakes Region faces threats from invasive species such as variable water milfoil and blue green bacteria blooms. The expansion of these invasive species can leach dangerous toxins, impacting humans and wildlife, limiting or even restricting the use of county waters at an increasing rate. No mechanism is yet available to successfully eradicate milfoil and we are just beginning to understand the conditions that favor blue green bacteria blooms.

UNH Cooperative Extension's Response:

Jeff Schloss, a campus-based UNH Cooperative Extension Water Resources specialist has partnered with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the Town of Barnstead for the past six years on investigating an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to controlling variable milfoil in the Suncook Lakes and the Suncook River.

UNH Cooperative Extension provided guidance in the experimental treatment designs and continues to provide heavily discounted water quality analysis for pesticide concentrations and residues before, during and after the herbicide treatments. Jeff Schloss has also been the principal investigator coordinating a separate research project investigating the use of biological controls for Milfoil eradication. Additionally, the NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program (LLMP) and UNH Center for Freshwater Biology have partnered to analyze incoming LLMP water samples for blue green bacteria toxin levels to better understand this phenomenon and to predict for any future toxic blooms.

How We Made a Difference:

Economic impacts to assist this task.

- Through reduced lab fees the UNH Cooperative Extension has been able to save the Town of Barnstead a minimum of $14,820 in lab analysis costs for the two Suncook River projects in 2008 and 2007.
- To qualify for the NH DES research funds the UNH Cooperative Extension also provided in-kind match support for a total of over $9,250 for this year's Suncook River Treatment project.