
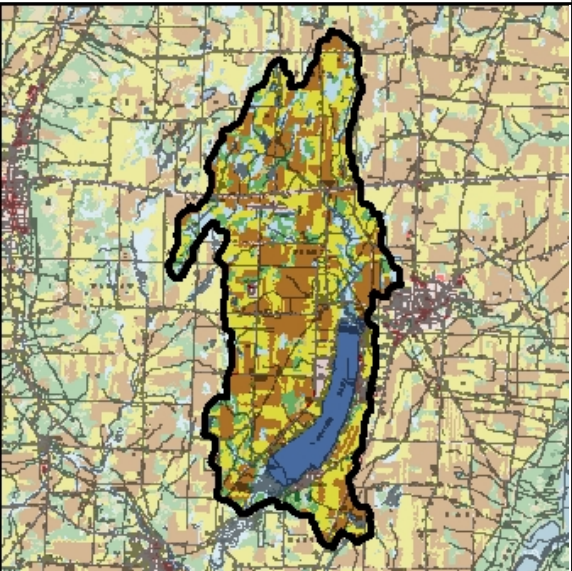


**Silver Lake, Wyoming, Livingston\* Co.,** Silver Lake Association

 <b>Department of Environmental Conservation</b>		<b>Lake Characteristics</b>	Surface Area (ac/ha)	813	329
			Max Depth (ft/m)	38	12
Mean Depth (ft/m)			24	7	
Retention Time (years)			1.20		
Water Class			A		
Dam Class			B		
<b>Watershed Characteristics</b>		Watershed Area(ac/ha)	11082	4485	
		Watershed/Lake Ratio	14		
		Lake and Wetlands	18.5%		
		Agricultural	62.3%		
	Forests, shrubs, grasses	12.1%			
	Residential	7.1%			
<b>CSLAP Participation</b>	Years	1986-1991, 1995-1997, 2006-2013, 2016-17			
	Volunteers	Frank V. Bright			



<b>Trophic State</b>	<b>HABs Susceptibility</b>	<b>Invasive Vulnerability</b>	<b>PWL Assessment</b>
Mesoeutrophic	Moderate	High	Impaired

Open Water Indicators	2017 Sampling Results								Seasonal Change	Long Term Avg.
	6/9	6/26	7/23	8/11	8/27	9/9	9/22			
Chl.a (µg/L)	3.7	5.6	4.4	21.2	12.4	41	41.9			19.5
BG Chl.a (µg/L)	0.4	2.6	6.8	12.7	15.6	32.2	38.8			8.7
Clarity (m)	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.7	1.9			2.3
pH	7.3	7.5	7.9	7.9	8.3	7.8	7.7			8.0
Cond (µmho/cm)	217.9	294.2	303.5	348.5	290.5	288.7	253.8			282
Surf Temp (°C)	21	19	24	21	23	19	24			21
Bott Temp (°C)	19	17	23	19	21	18	20			18
TN (mg/L)	1.088	1.255	1.125	.983	.719	1.28	1.36			0.996
TP (mg/L)	.031	.026	.028	.043	.055	.243	.173			0.044
Deep TP (mg/L)	.033	.044	.027	.053	.054	.23	.213			0.196
N:P Ratio	35	48	40	23	13	5	8			

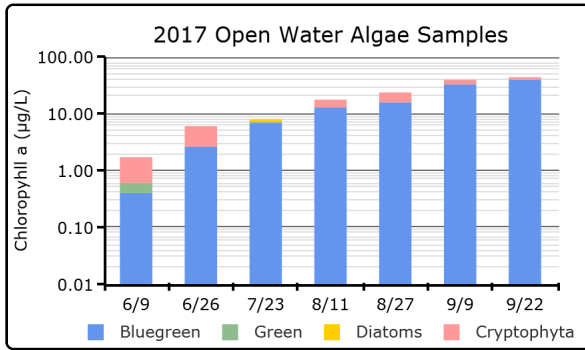
**Shoreline bloom and HABs notifications**

Date of first listing	Date of last listing	# of weeks on DEC notification list	# of weeks with updates
8/11/2017	10/27/2017	11	6

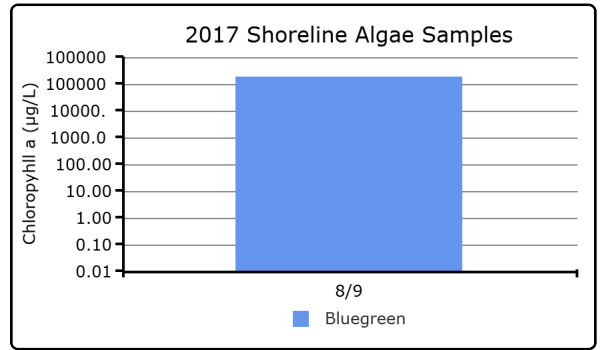
Shoreline HAB Sample Dates 2017									
HAB Indicators	HAB Criteria	8/9							
BGA	25 µg/L	178069							
Microcystin	20 µg/L	320							
Anatoxin-a		ND							

# HAB Status

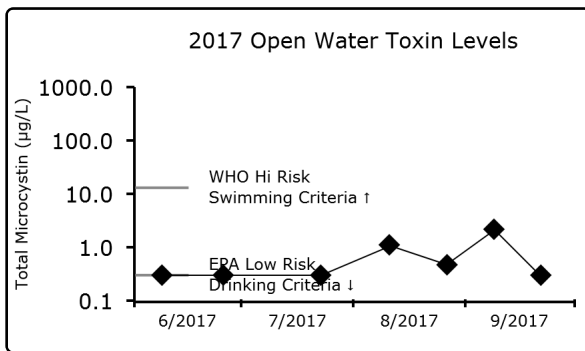
## 2017 Open Water Algae Samples



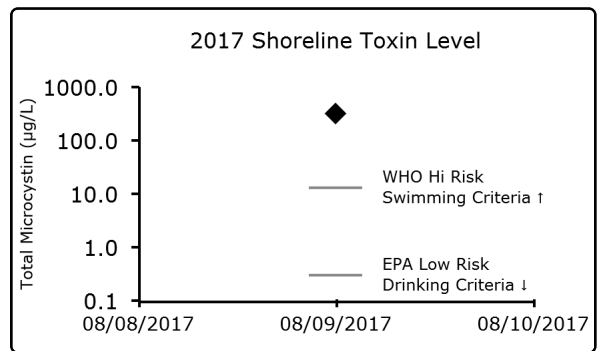
## 2017 Shoreline Algae Samples



## 2017 Open Water Toxin Levels

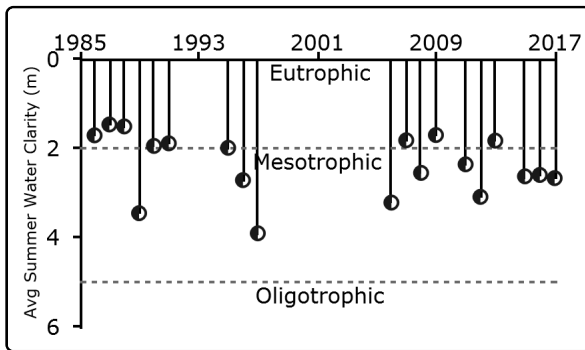


## 2017 Shoreline Toxin Levels

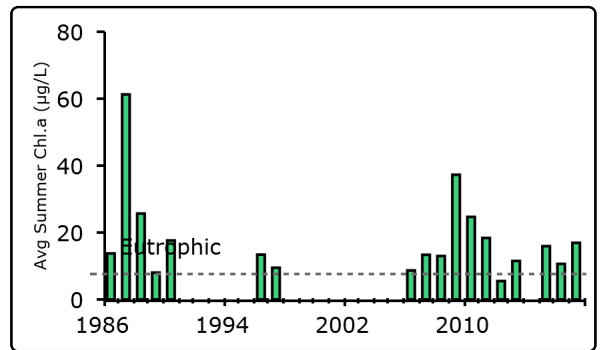


# Silver Lake Long Term Trend Analysis

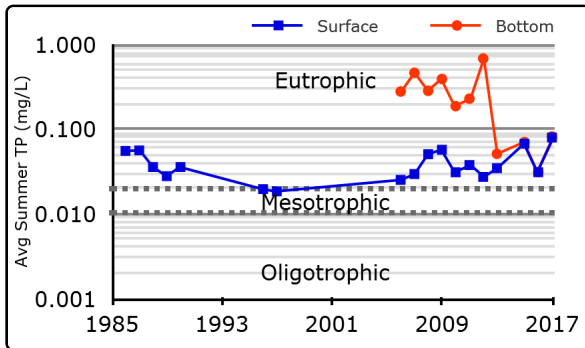
## Clarity



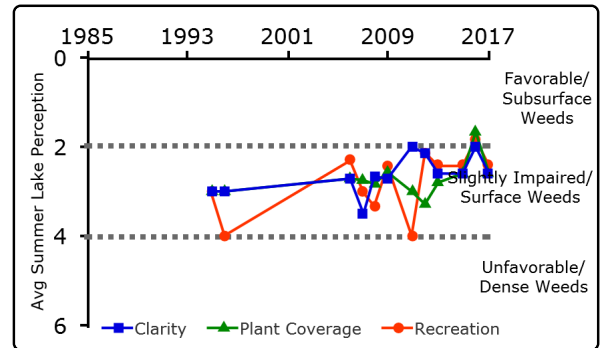
## Chlorophyll a



## Surface and Deep Phosphorus

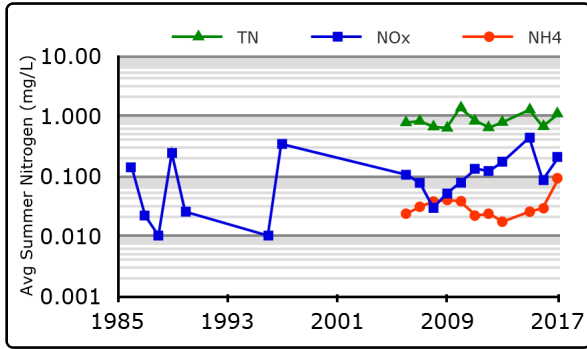


## Lake Perception

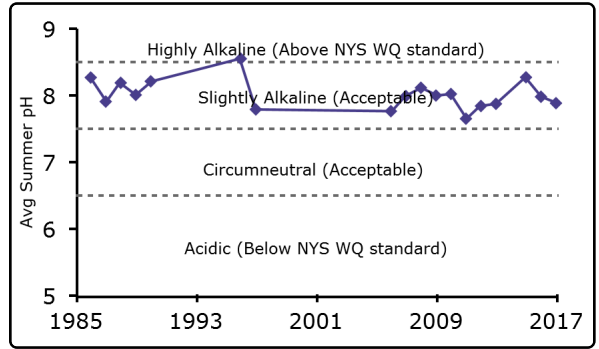


# Silver Lake Long Term Trend Analysis

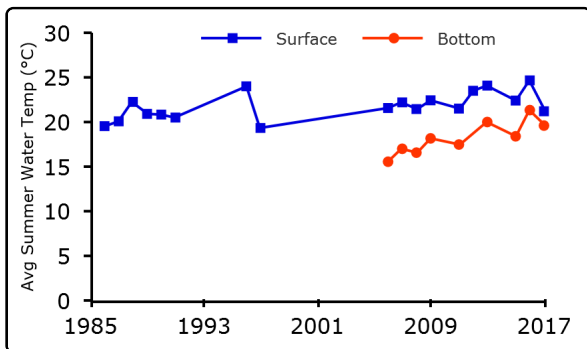
## Nitrogen



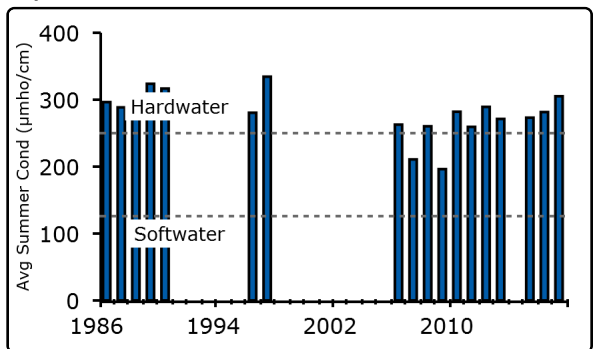
## pH



## Temperature

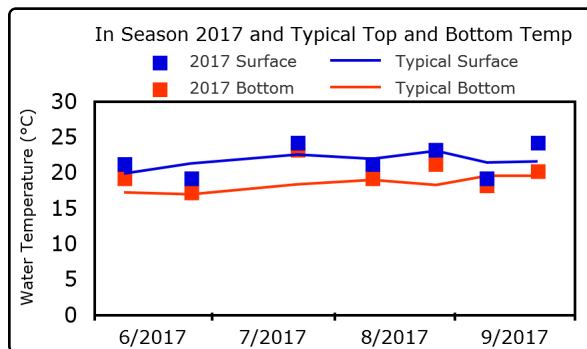


## Specific Conductance

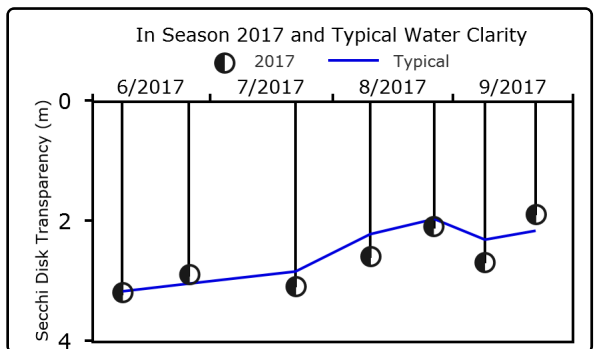


# Silver Lake In-Season Analysis

## In Season Temperature
























## In Season Water Clarity



# Scorecard

## Lake Use

Potable Water				Algae levels
Swimming				Algae blooms
Recreation				Algae blooms
Aquatic Life				Invasive animals
Aesthetics				Algae blooms
Habitat				Invasive plants
Fish Consumption				Not applicable

PWL

Average  
Year

2017

Primary Issue



## Summary

**2017 compared to prior years:** Silver Lake continues to be a *mesoeutrophic*, or moderately to highly productive lake, based on moderate water clarity and high nutrient (total phosphorus) and algae (chlorophyll *a*) levels. Water clarity was higher than usual in 2017, consistent with lower algae levels. However, phosphorus readings were much higher than usual, and deepwater phosphorus levels were similar to those measured at the lake surface. Each of the other CSLAP water quality indicators was close to normal in 2017.

**Compared to nearby lakes:** Silver Lake has higher water clarity, but similar nutrient and algae levels, compared to other nearby (Western region) lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is usually similar to the coverage in many of these other lakes, but plant coverage was lower in 2016. Chloride levels are above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for New York lakes, suggesting some potential for aquatic life impacts from road salt (although no impacts have been reported).

**Trends:** Water temperatures (surface and bottom) have increased in the last three decades in Silver Lake. Recreational assessments appear to have improved, coincident with a decrease in plant coverage, but these changes have not been statistically significant.

**Algal blooms and HABS:** Silver Lake experiences frequent shoreline and periodic open water blue green algae blooms. These shoreline blooms are comprised of *Microcystis*, *Anabaena* and *Lyngbya*, and at times the shoreline blooms have elevated toxin levels. The one shoreline bloom sampled in August of 2017 also was dominated by *Microcystis* and had high toxin levels. By September, the lake had open water blooms, also comprised of *Microcystis*, although toxin levels were much lower (if measurable). These toxins may represent a threat to drinking water, although no treated drinking water samples have exhibited toxin levels above the EPA thresholds (in any New York state lake samples).

**Aquatic invasive species:** Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leafed pondweed, zebra mussels and rudd have been documented in Silver Lake, indicating a high vulnerability to AIS introductions. Plant coverage may have decreased in recent years, although it is not known if invasive plants have been managed in the lake.

**Indicated Actions:** 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 will help to improve lake health by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, and continued monitoring for invasive species is warranted. Continued algae bloom education and monitoring is recommended, and both shoreline and open water blooms should be avoided. This is of particular importance in Silver Lake, since this lake has exhibited both periodic open water and shoreline harmful algal blooms.

## How to Read the Report

This guide provides a description of the CSLAP report by section and a glossary. The sampling site is indicated in the header for lakes with more than one routine sampling site.

### **Physical Characteristics influence lake quality:**

- Surface area is the lake's surface in acres and hectares.
- Max depth is the water depth measured at the deepest part of the lake in feet and meters.
- Mean depth is either known from lake bathymetry or is 0.46 of the maximum depth.
- Retention time is the time it takes for water to pass through a lake in years. This indicates the influence of the watershed on lake conditions.
- Lake classification describes the "best uses" for this lake. Class AA, AAspec, and A lakes may be used as sources of potable water. Class B lakes are suitable for contact recreational activities, like swimming. Class C lakes are suitable for non-contact recreational activities, including fishing, although they may still support swimming. The addition of a T or TS to any of these classes indicates the ability of a lake to support trout populations and/or trout spawning.
- Dam classification defines the hazard class of a dam. Class A, B, C, and D dams are defined as low, intermediate, high, or negligible/no hazard dams in that order. "0" indicates that no class has been assigned to a particular dam, or that no dam exists.

### **Watershed characteristics influence lake water quality:**

- Watershed area in acres and hectares
- Land use data come from the most recent (2011) US Geological Survey National Land Use Cover dataset

**CSLAP Participation** lists the sampling years and the current year volunteers.

### **Key lake status indicators summarize lake conditions:**

- Trophic state of a lake refers to its nutrient loading and productivity, measured by phosphorus, algae, and clarity. An oligotrophic lake has low nutrient and algae levels (low productivity) and high clarity while a eutrophic lake has high nutrient and algae levels (high productivity) and low clarity. Mesotrophic lakes fall in the middle.
- Harmful algal bloom susceptibility summarizes the available historical HAB data and indicates the potential for future HAB events.
- Invasive vulnerability indicates whether aquatic invasive species are found in this lake or in nearby lakes, indicating the potential for further introductions.
- Priority waterbody list (PWL) assessment is based on the assessment of use categories and summarized as fully supported, threatened, stressed,

impaired, or precluded. Aesthetics and habitat are evaluated as good, fair, or poor. The cited PWL assessment reflects the “worst” assessment for the lake. The full PWL assessment can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/36730.html#WIPWL>.

### **Current year sampling results**

- Results for each of the sampling sessions in the year are in tabular form. The seasonal change graphically shows the current year results. Red shading indicates eutrophic readings.
- HAB notification periods on the DEC website, updated weekly <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>
- Shoreline HAB sample dates and results. Samples are collected from the area that appears to have the worst bloom. Red shading indicates a confirmed HAB.
- HAB sample algae analysis. Algae types typically change during the season. These charts show the amount of the different types of algae found in each mid-lake or shoreline sample. Samples with high levels of BGA are HABs. The second set of charts show the level of toxins found in open water and shoreline samples compared to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.
- If there are more than ten shoreline bloom samples collected in a year, bloom sample information is instead summarized by month (May-Oct.) as minimum, average, and maximum values for blue-green algae and microcystin.

**Long Term Trend Analysis** puts the current year findings in context. Summer averages (mid-June thru mid-September) for each of the CSLAP years show trends in key water quality indicators. The graphs include relevant criteria (trophic categories, water quality standards, etc.) and boundaries separating these criteria.

**In-Season Analysis** shows water temperature and water clarity during the sampling season. These indicate seasonal changes and show the sample year results compared to the typical historical readings for those dates.

**The Lake Use Scorecard** presents the results of the existing Priority Waterbody List assessment for this lake in a graphical form and compares it to information from the current year and average values from CSLAP data and other lake information. Primary issues that could impact specific use categories are identified, although more issues could also affect each designated use.

**The Lake Summary** reviews and encapsulates the data in the lake report, and provides suggested actions for lake management.

## Glossary of water quality and HAB indicators

**Clarity (m):** The depth to which a Secchi disk lowered into the water is visible, measured in meters. Water clarity is one of the trophic indicators for each lake.

**TP (mg/L):** Total phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface). TP includes all dissolved and particulate forms of phosphorus.

**Deep TP:** Total phosphorus measured in milligrams per liter at depth (1-2 meters above the lake bottom at the deepest part of the lake)

**TN:** Total nitrogen, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface. TN includes all forms of nitrogen, including **NO<sub>x</sub>** (nitrite and nitrate) and **NH<sub>4</sub>** (ammonia).

**N:P Ratio:** The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus, unitless (mass ratio). This ratio helps determine if a lake is phosphorous or nitrogen limited.

**Chl.a (µg/L):** Chlorophyll a, measured in micrograms per liter. Indicates the amount of algae in the water column.

**pH:** A range from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic and 14 being the most basic or alkaline. A healthy lake generally ranges between 6.5 and 8.5.

**Cond (µmho/cm):** Specific conductance is a measure of the conductivity of water. A higher value indicates the presence of more dissolved ions. High ion concentrations indicate hardwater, and low show softwater.

**Upper Temp (°C):** Surface temperature, measured in degrees Celsius

**Deep Temp (°C):** Bottom temperature, measured in degrees Celsius

**BG Chl.a (µg/L):** Chlorophyll a from blue-green algae, measured in micrograms per liter

**HABs: Harmful Algal Blooms.** Algal blooms that have the appearance of cyanobacteria (BGA)

**BGA:** Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria

**Microcystin (µg/L):** The most common HAB liver toxin; total microcystin above 20 micrograms per liter indicates a “high toxin” bloom. However, ALL BGA blooms should be avoided, even if toxin levels are low.

**Anatoxin-a (µg/L):** A toxin that may be produced in a HAB which targets the central nervous system. Neither EPA nor NYS has developed a risk threshold for anatoxin-a, although readings above 4 micrograms per liter are believed to represent an elevated risk.