

# The Role of Science in the Long-Term Rehabilitation of Delavan Lake, Wis.

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In Collaboration with:

Delavan Lake Sanitary District

Town of Delavan

Wisconsin DNR

University of Wisconsin

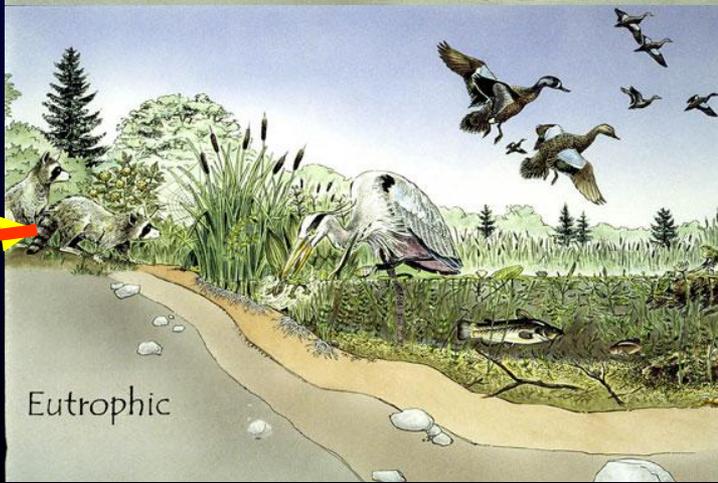
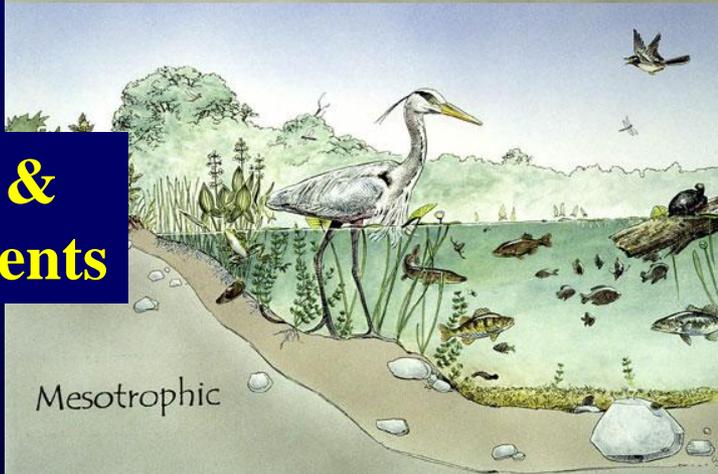
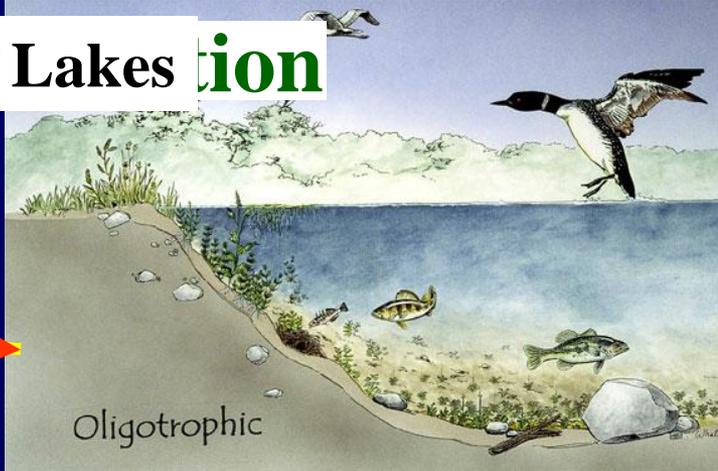
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. EPA

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture



# Types of Lakes **tion**



**Time &  
Nutrients**

## **Oligotrophic**

- Low Nutrient Conc.
- Low Productivity.
- Clear Water
- Desirable Fishery but often limited

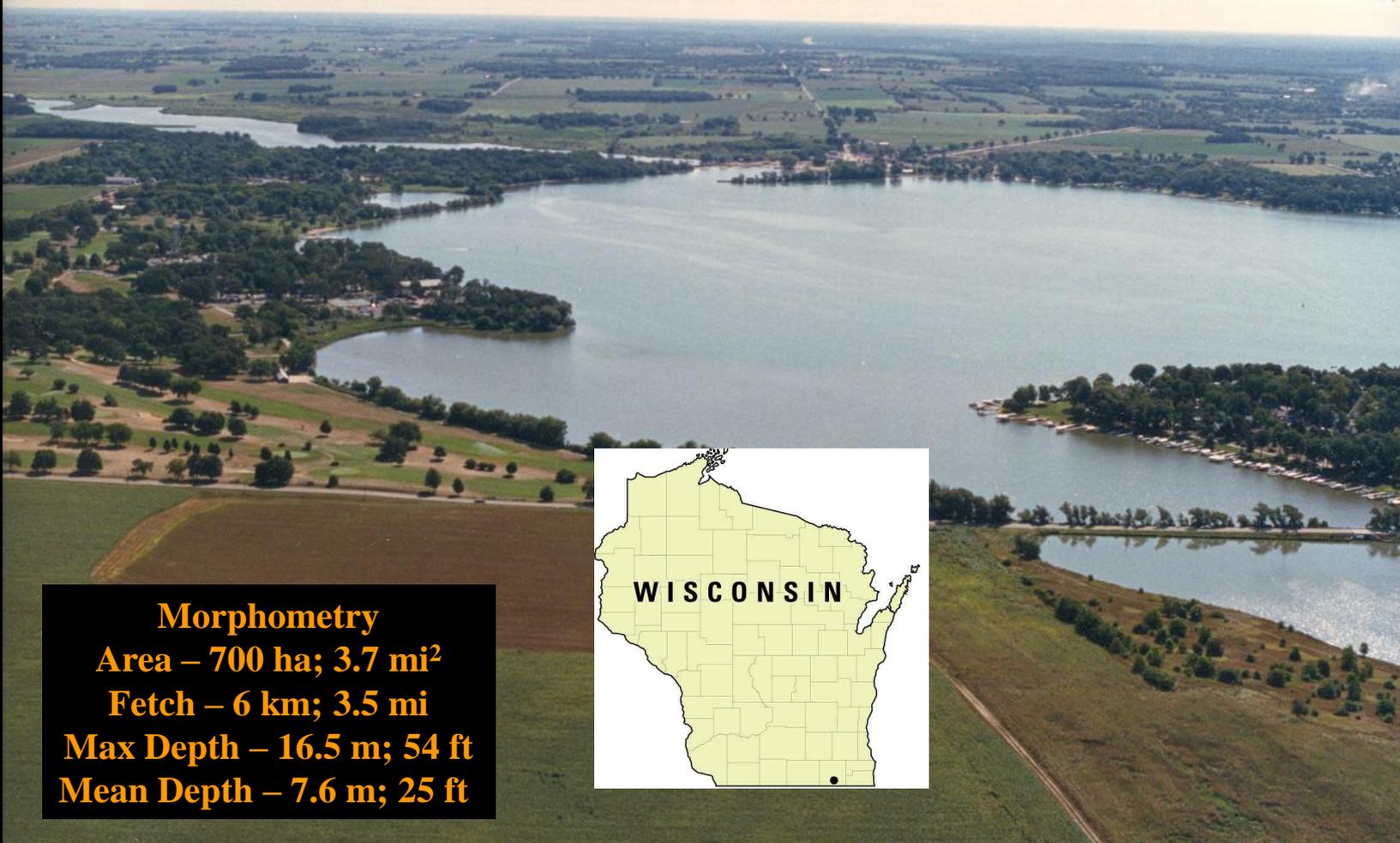
## **Mesotrophic**

- Moderate Nutrient Conc.
- Increased Productivity
- Occasional Algal Bloom
- Good Fishery

## **Eutrophic**

- High Nutrient Conc.
- Very Productive
- Frequent Algal Blooms
- Freq. Deep DO Depletion
- Rough Fish Common

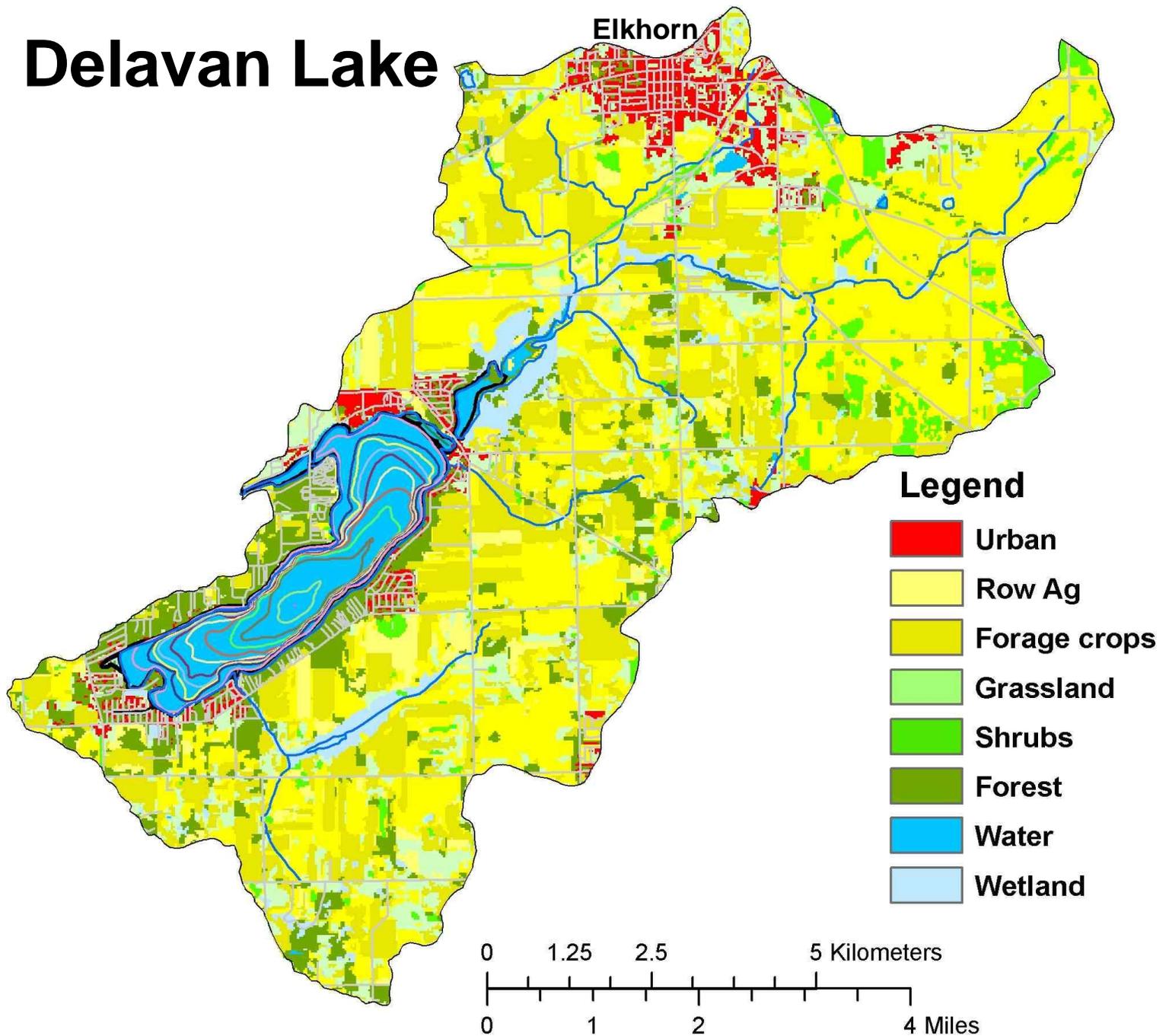
# Delavan Lake



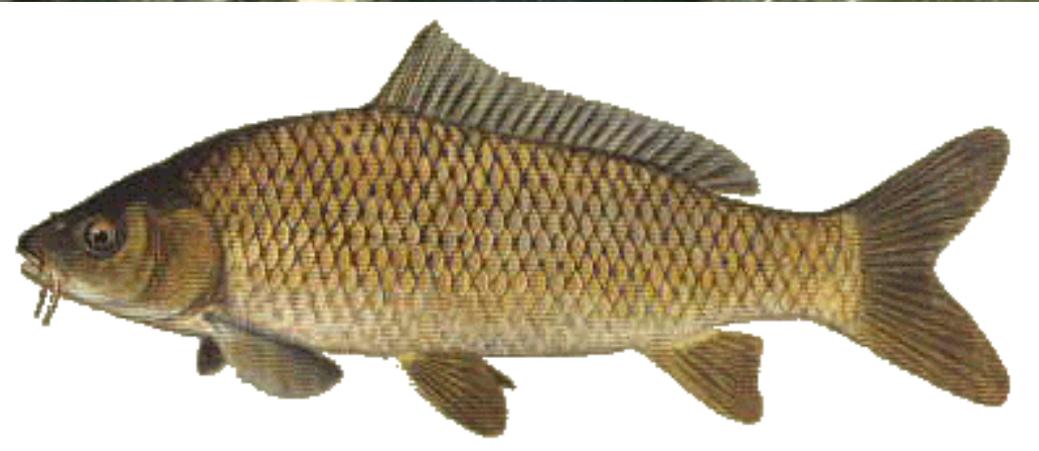
**Morphometry**  
**Area – 700 ha; 3.7 mi<sup>2</sup>**  
**Fetch – 6 km; 3.5 mi**  
**Max Depth – 16.5 m; 54 ft**  
**Mean Depth – 7.6 m; 25 ft**



# Delavan Lake

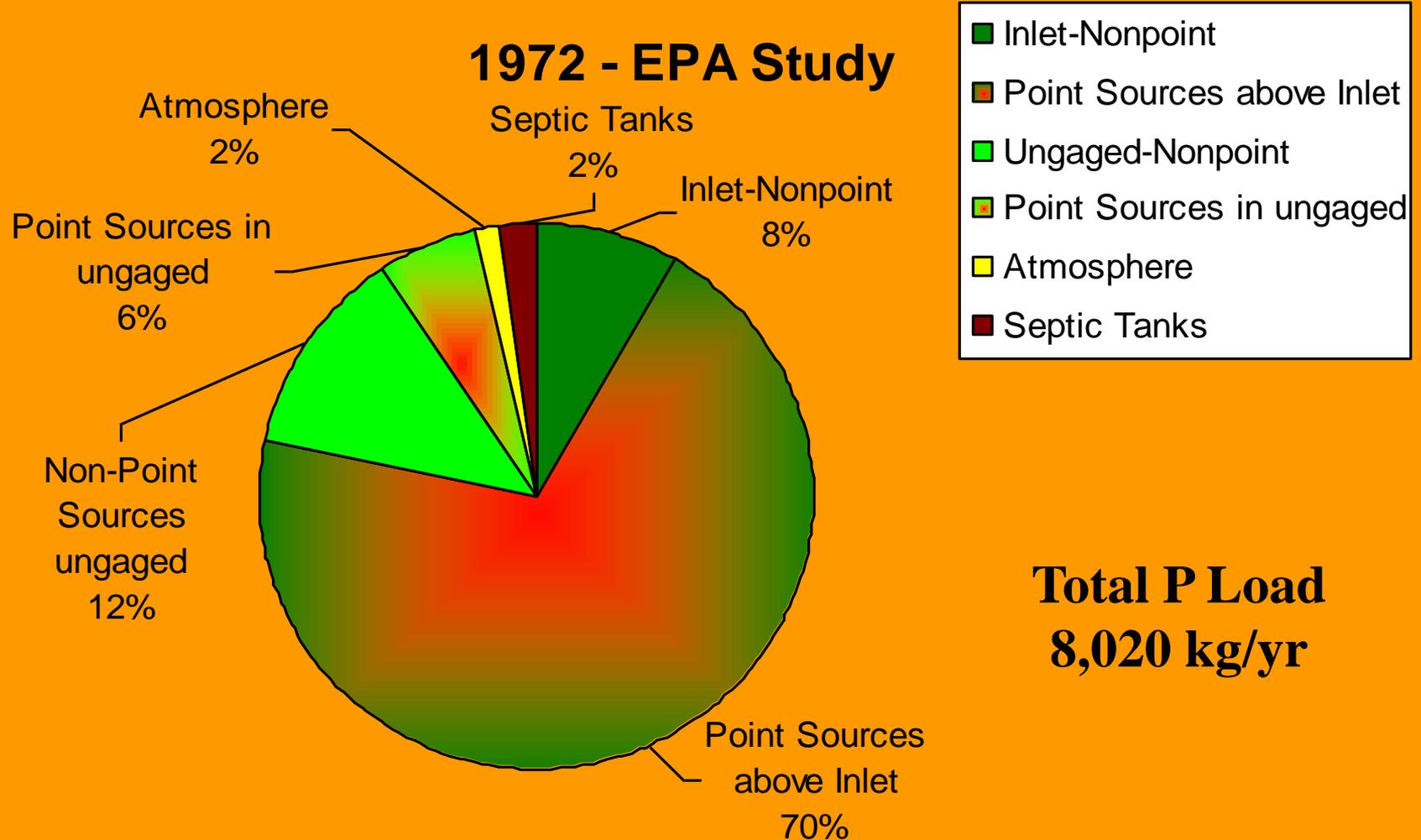


# Delavan Lake - Productivity





# Sources of Nutrients to Delavan Lake

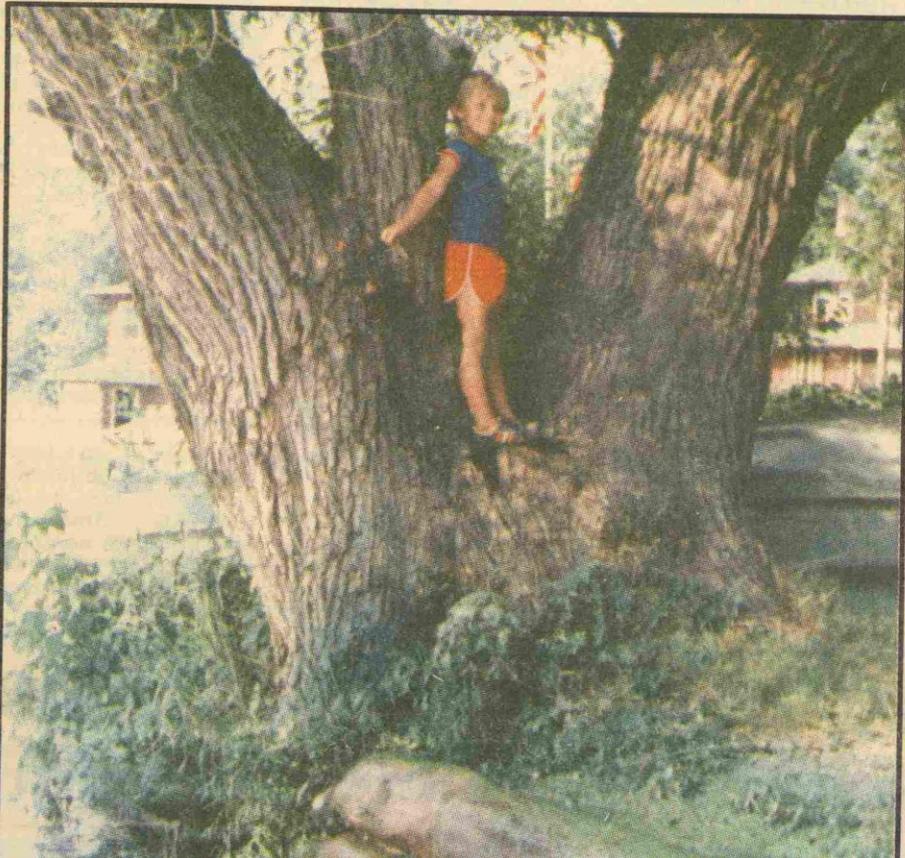


**Point Sources Contribute ~76% of the Phosphorus Loading to the Lake**





Supplement to *The Janesville Gazette*, published in Walworth County—Tuesday, July 19, 1983



## Algae in Delavan Lake triggers health worries, sends vacationers home

By Jon Henkes

**DELAVAN LAKE**—Year-round residents and vacationers at public and private beaches here have been warned that swimming in the lake may be hazardous to their health.

Concerned that decaying algae in the lake is emitting a toxic substance proven harmful to aquatic life, a state Department of Natural Resources official told lake residents last week to instruct their families and friends that swimming in Delavan Lake could produce gastrointestinal ailments such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

That warning prompted the exodus of

several vacationing families from the area, while prompting many others to drive to the city of Delavan's Mill Pond swimming area or to Geneva Lake to go swimming.

At the town of Delavan lakefront park, where major improvements have recently been made to attract summer vacationers, about 250 beachgoers drove away in disgust on the weekend of July 9-10.

That disaster occurred, however, three days before the DNR announcement about potential health problems.

On July 9 and 10, a thick coating of dead algae permeated nearly the entire lake, the end result of the

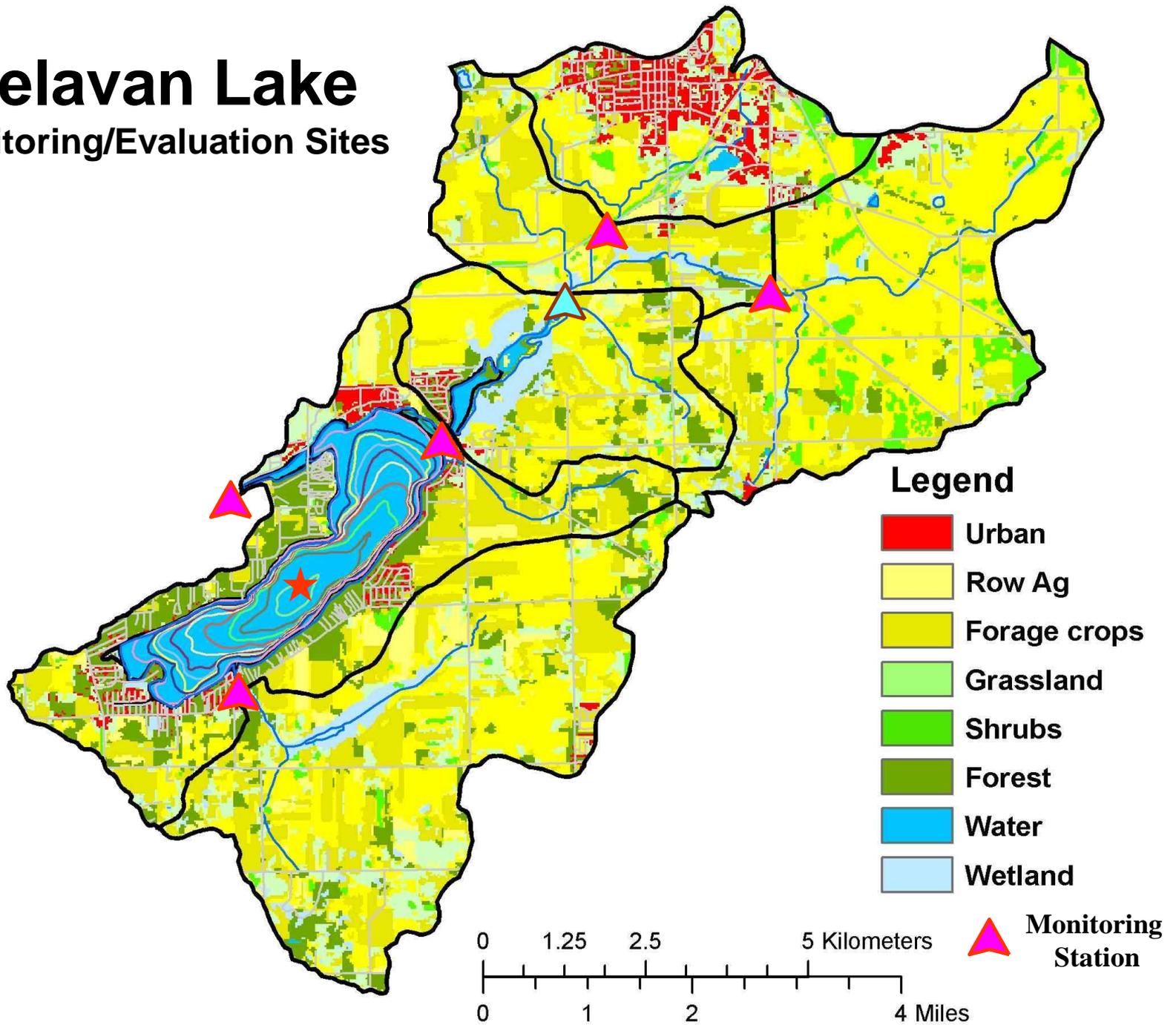
“Several families have requested refunds for their cottages and have packed their bags and left because of the algae. There were some children who became sick after swimming. The beach has been very quiet all week.”

spraying of a chemical algacide into the lake on June 30 and July 7.

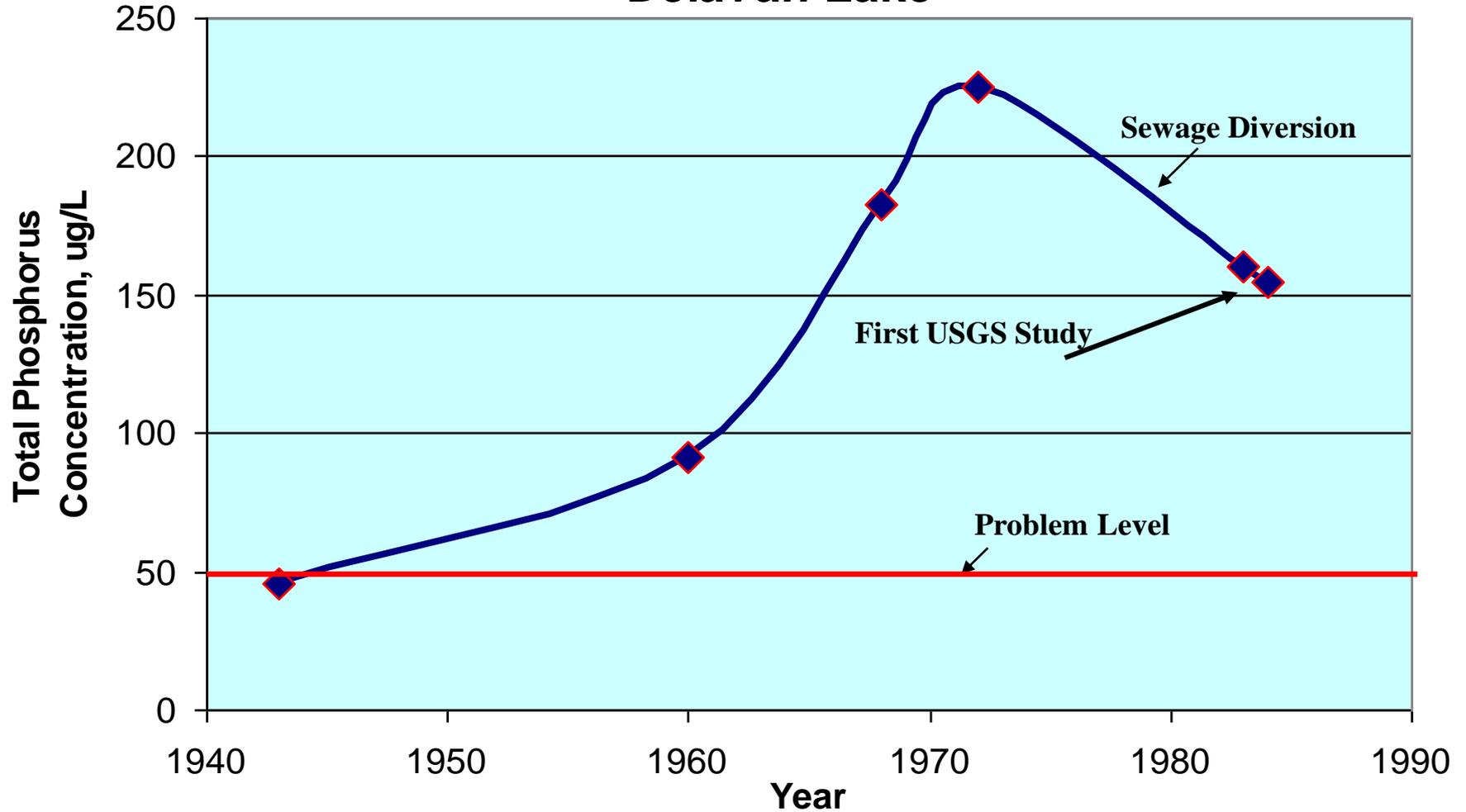
Visually uninviting the lake was not known then to contain toxic dead algae. Year-round lake resident Bill Morelli said

# Delavan Lake

## Monitoring/Evaluation Sites

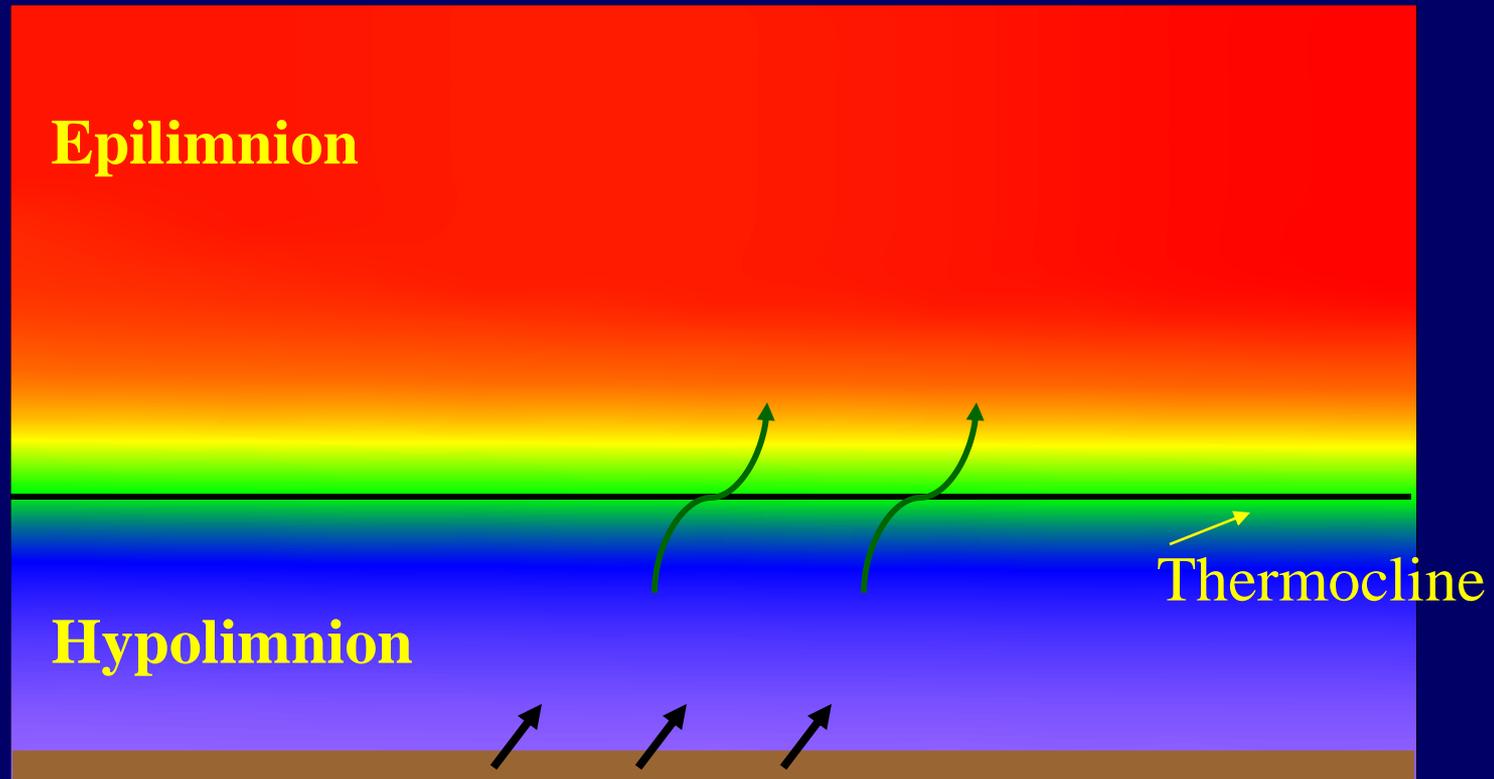


# Historical Total Phosphorus Concentrations in Delavan Lake

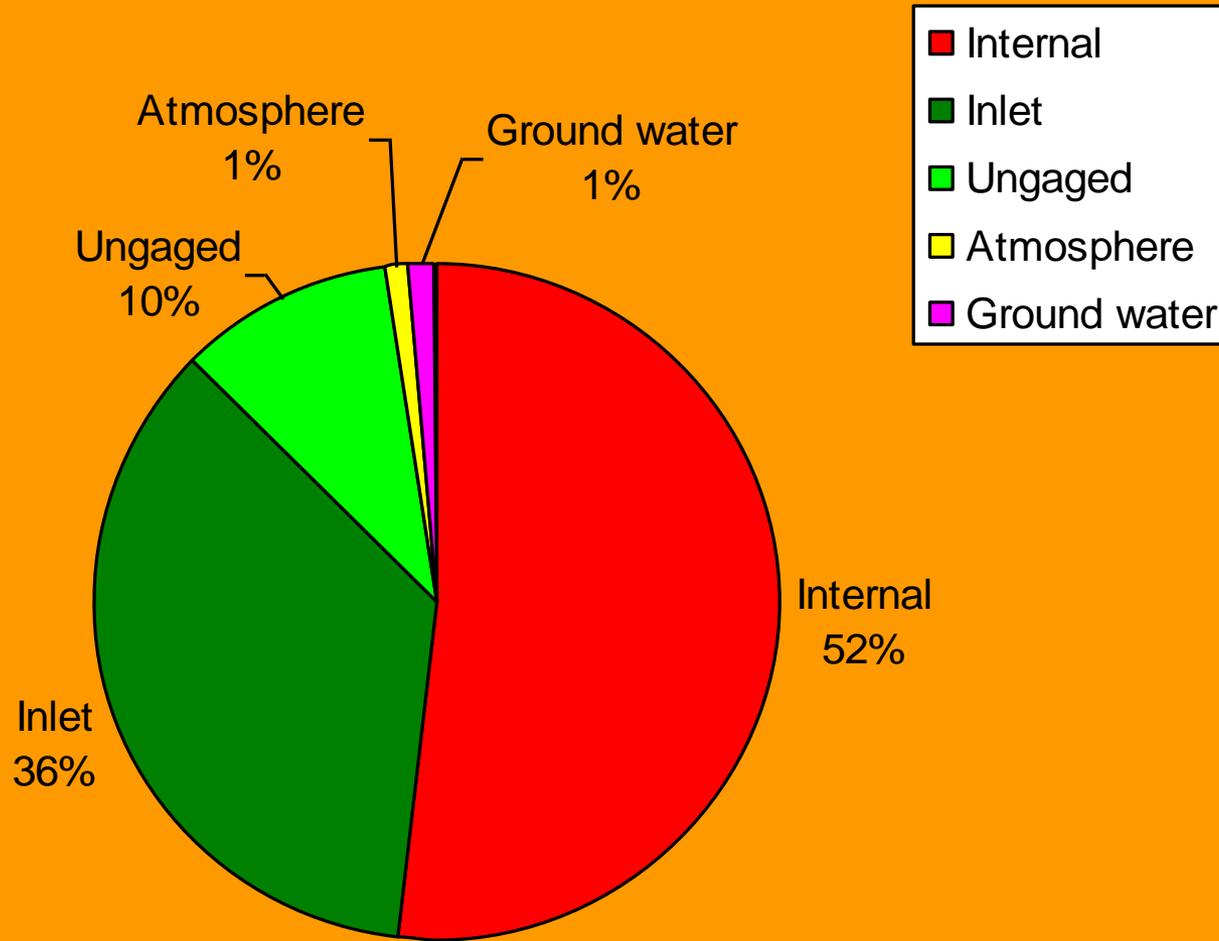




# Internal Release of Phosphorus from Deep Sediment “Internal Loading”



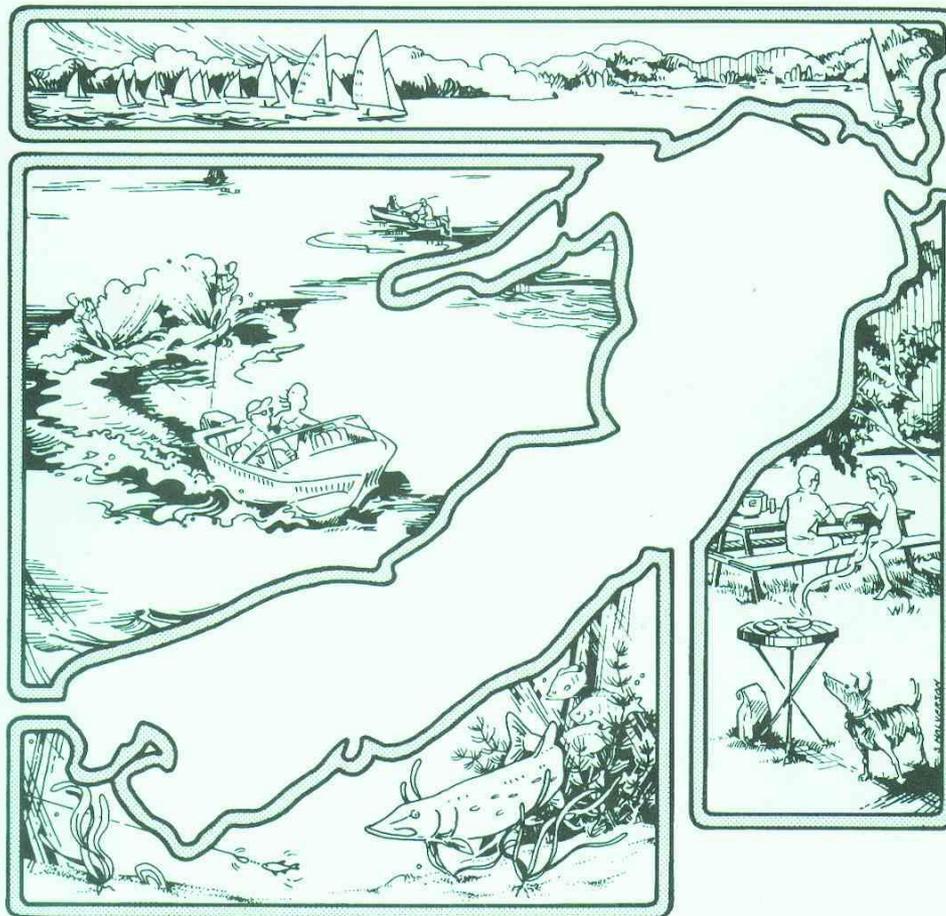
# Phosphorus Budget For Delavan Lake – 1984-85



Total P Loading – 8,700 kg/yr

# Delavan Lake: A Recovery and Management Study

## Water Resources Management Workshop



**Management  
Strategies based on  
Scientific Monitoring  
Data and Scientific  
Relations/Models**

Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin—Madison  
in cooperation with  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

September 1986



# Goals for Delavan Lake Rehabilitation

**Increase Water Clarity – Increase Average Summer Secchi Depth from ~1.0 m to at least 1.5 m**



**Decrease Average Summer Chlorophyll a concentration from ~30 – 50 ug/L to 14 ug/L**



**Decrease in lake spring P concentration from ~100 – 120 ug/L to about 34 ug/L**



**Decrease P Loading to the lake from about 8,700 kg/yr to about 1,900 kg/yr**

# Typical conditions associated with trophic status

Oligotrophic

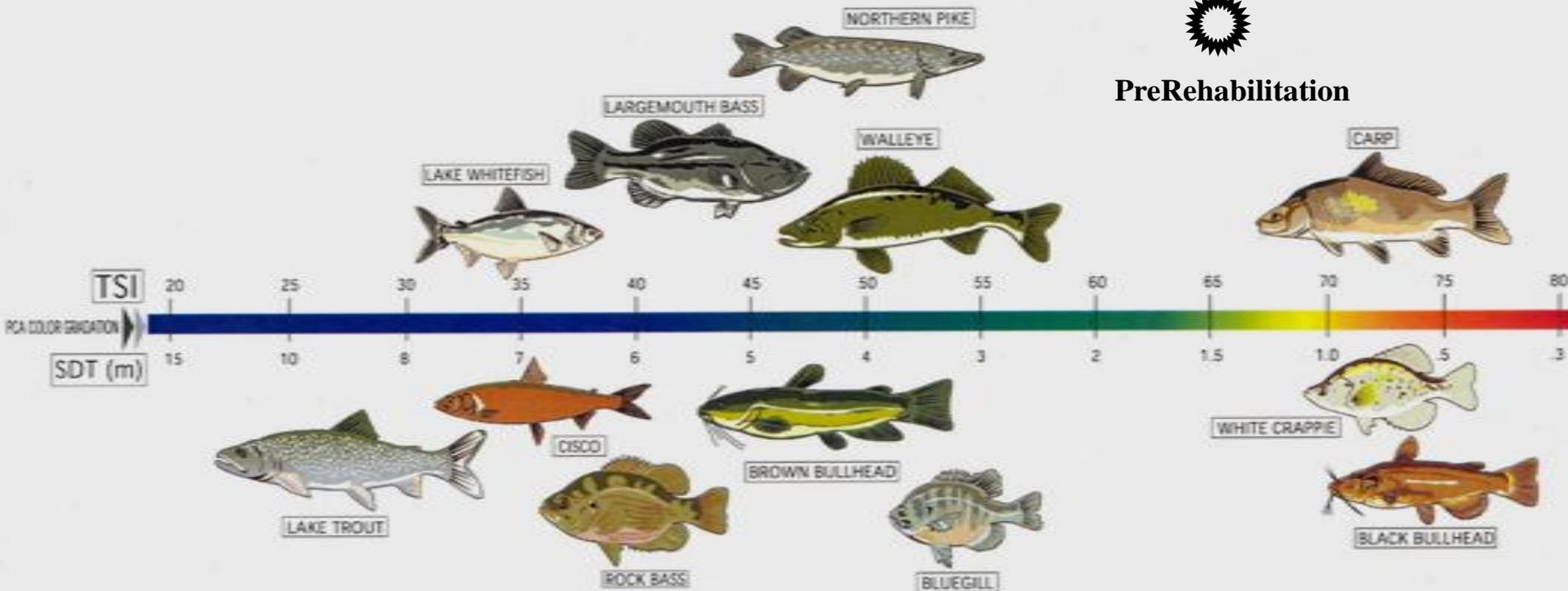
Mesotrophic

Eutrophic

Hypereutrophic



PreRehabilitation

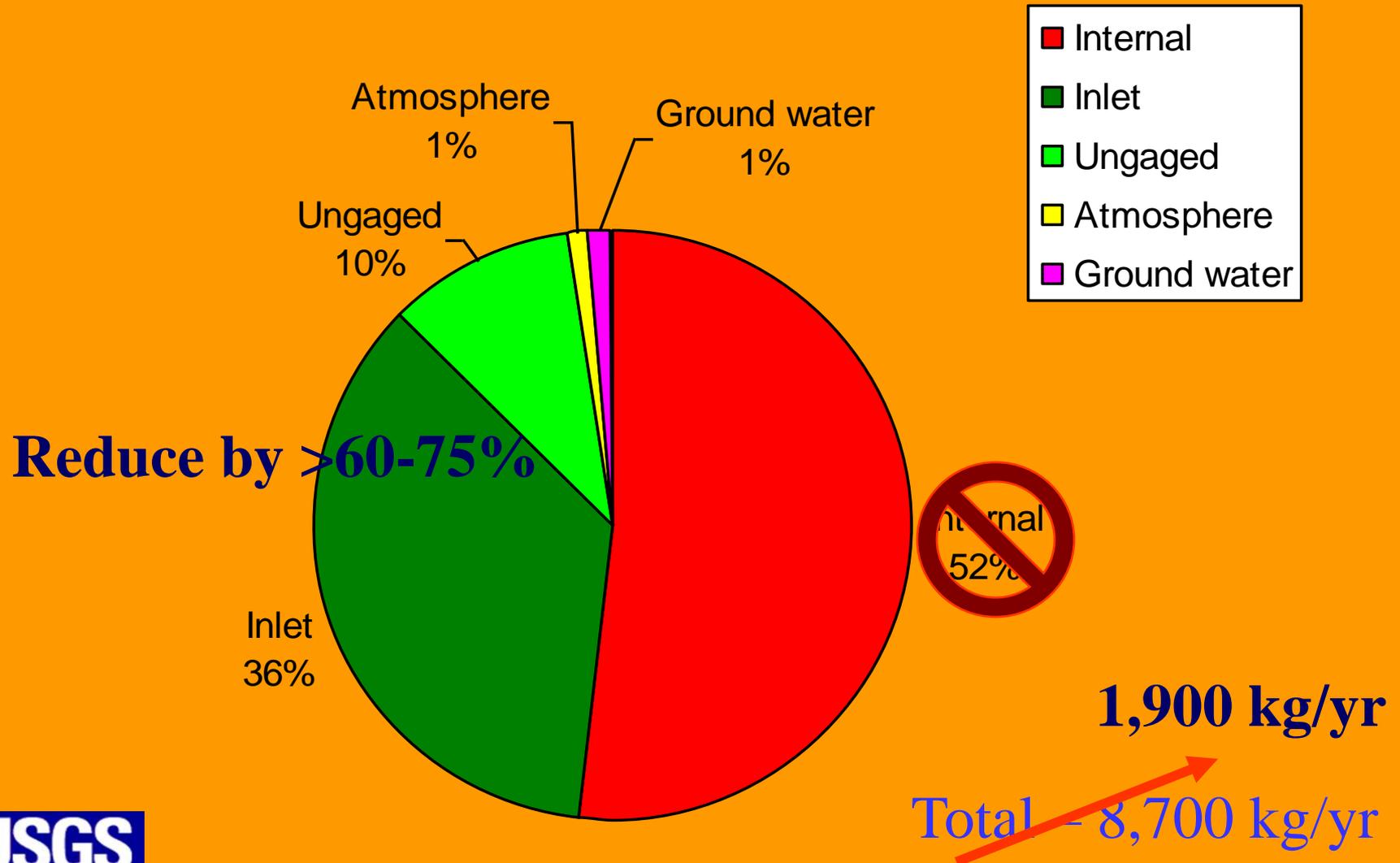


Every change of 10 in the TSI corresponds to a doubling of a lake's algae biomass and a halving of water clarity.



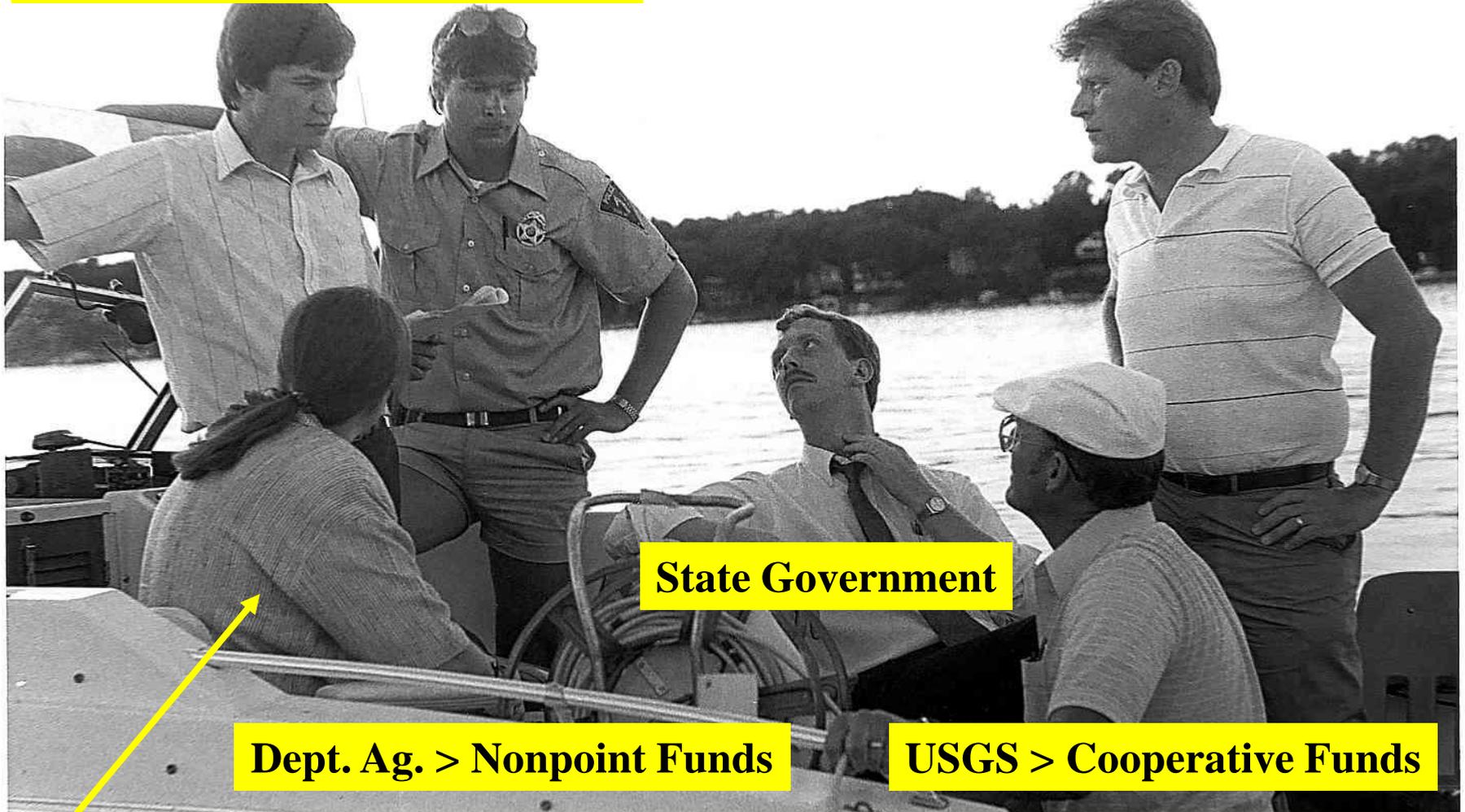
Based on work of Dennis Schupp MDNR Fisheries

# Phosphorus Budget For Delavan Lake – 1984-85



**WDNR > Dingle Johnson Funds**

**Local Support > Cash and In-kind**



**State Government**

**Dept. Ag. > Nonpoint Funds**

**USGS > Cooperative Funds**

**USEPA > Clean Lake Funding**

- > Water Pollution Control Project House Public Works Committee
- > Natural Prototype Project for Rehabilitating Lakes
- >> ~\$ 7 Million

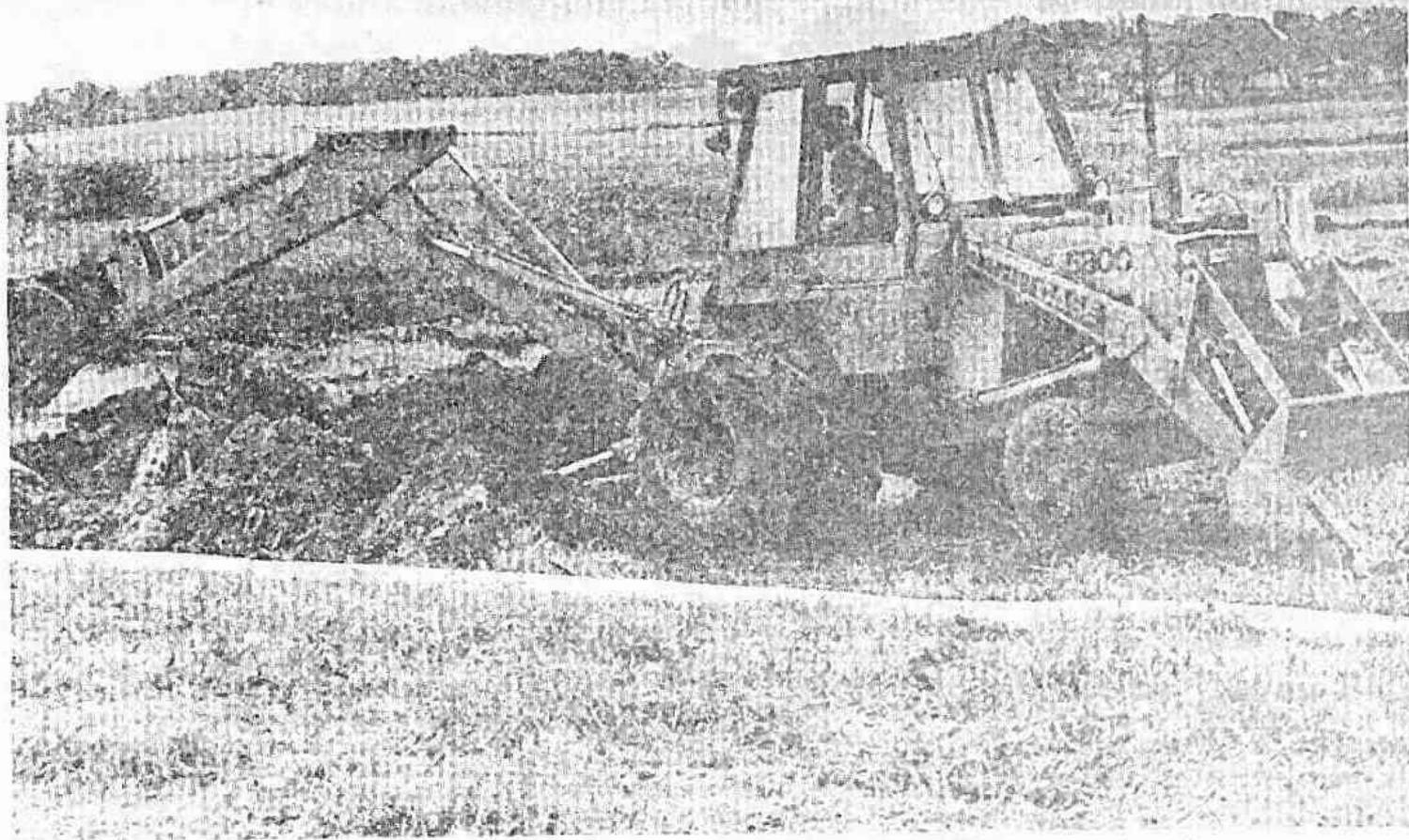


**Kickoff Meeting with Congressman Les Aspin, 1989**

**External Sources**

**Watershed Management - BMP's**





The county has ordered removal of drainage tile on the land off Mound road.

## Farmer Told Remove Tiles, Pumps

Investigation of a farmland drainage system by county and state officials has resulted in an order to remove pumping stations and drain tiles from almost six acres of property near Delavan Lake.

In a letter released last week, Frank Dobbs stated that construction of the

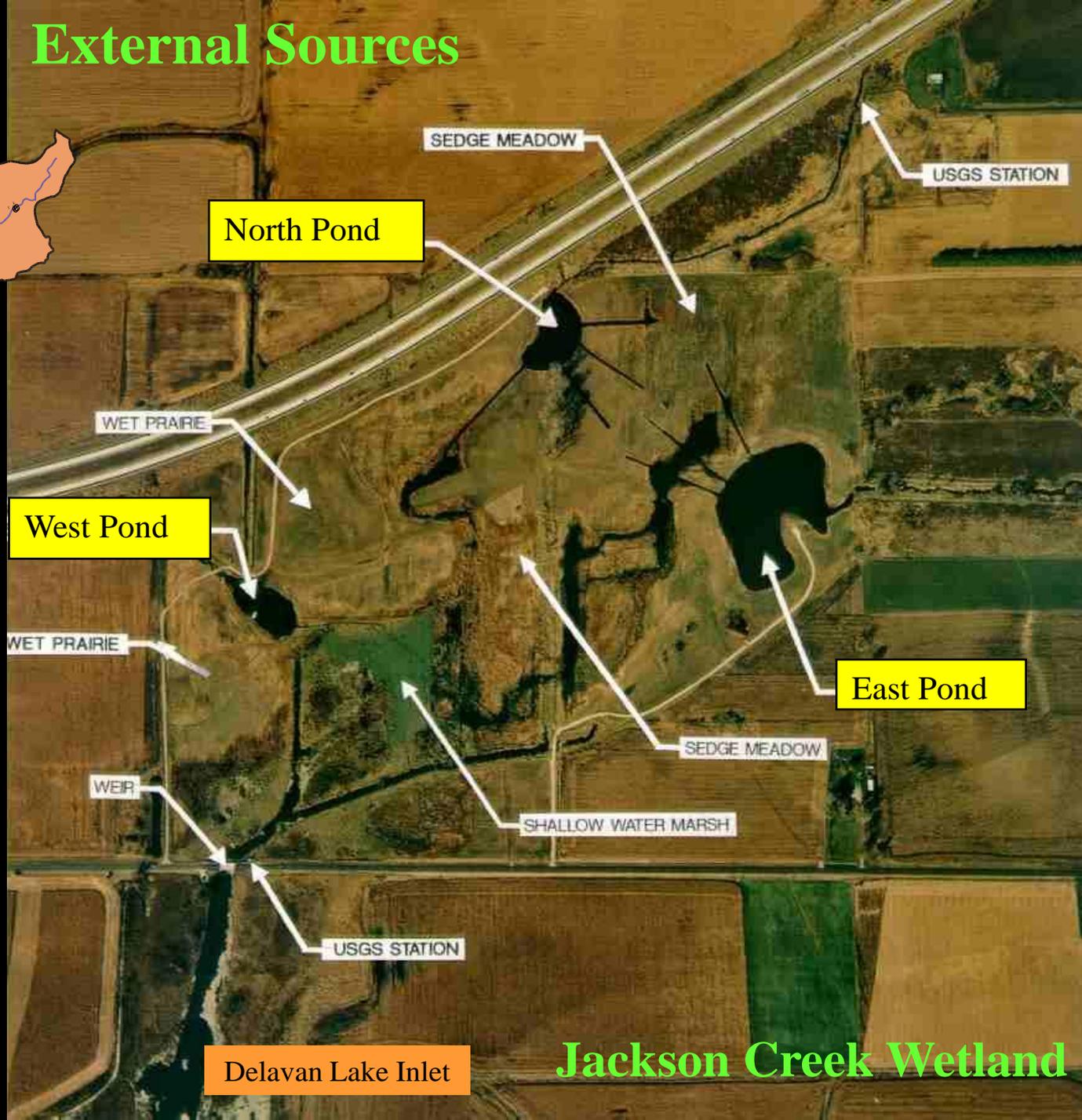
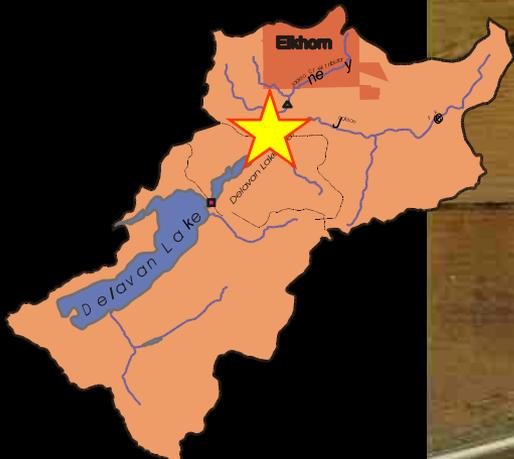
(DNR) traveled to the property Sept. 20. Based on an inspection of the construction site, Dobbs said he was able to determine that parts of the drainage system violate the county's zoning ordinance.

Town Of Delavan officials were the first to notify county authorities of the

diameter plastic pipe in the ground. Those pipes are then connected to an excavated pit which contains a pump. The pump transports water drained from the pipes into the pit into Jackson Creek.

When completed, the system will allow the property to be used as tillable farmland.

# External Sources



## Jackson Creek Wetland

# Jackson Creek Short-Circuiting

















DAM

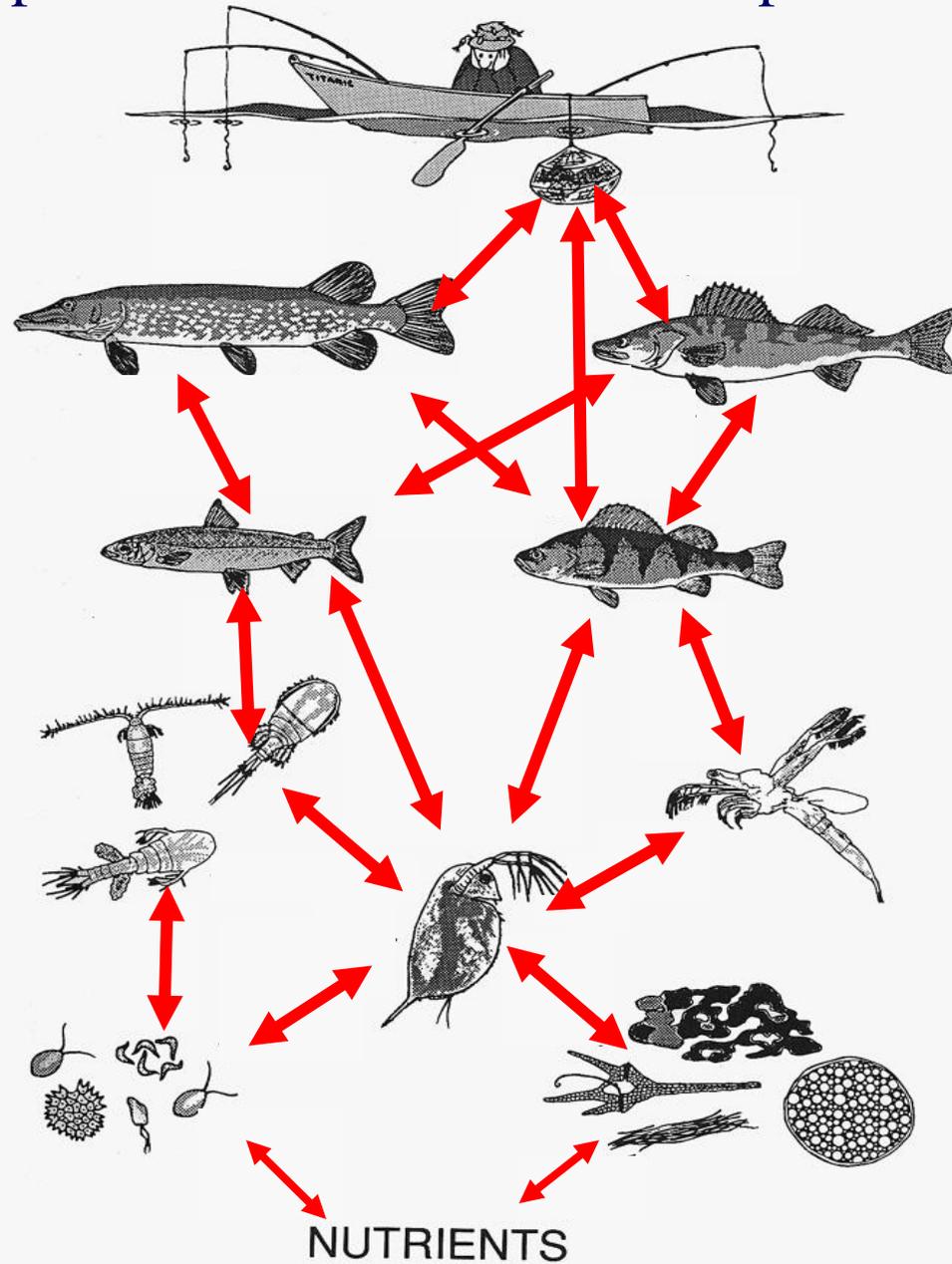


Internal Sources

Chemical Application of Alum

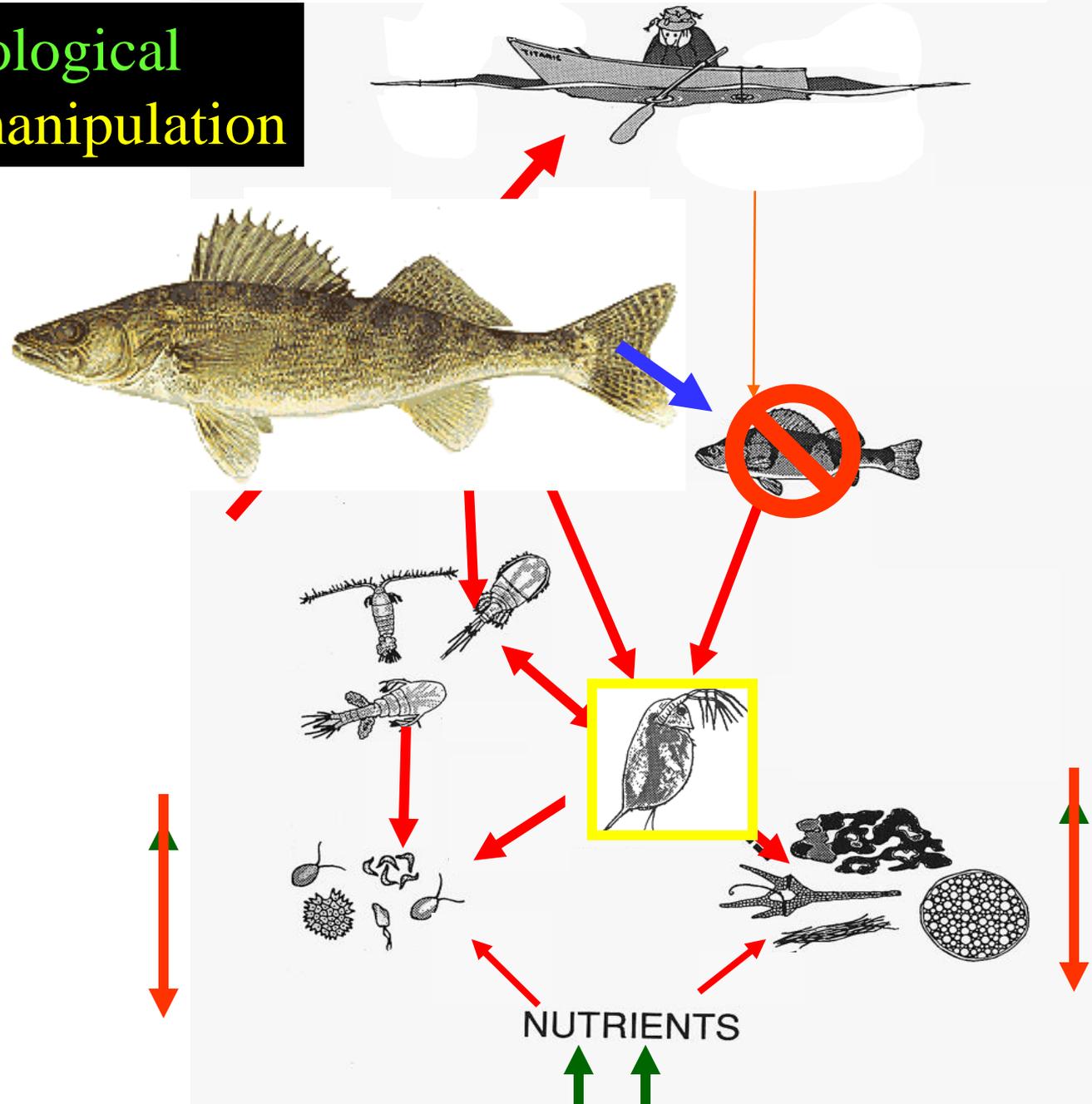


# Typical Food Web of a Mesotrophic Lake



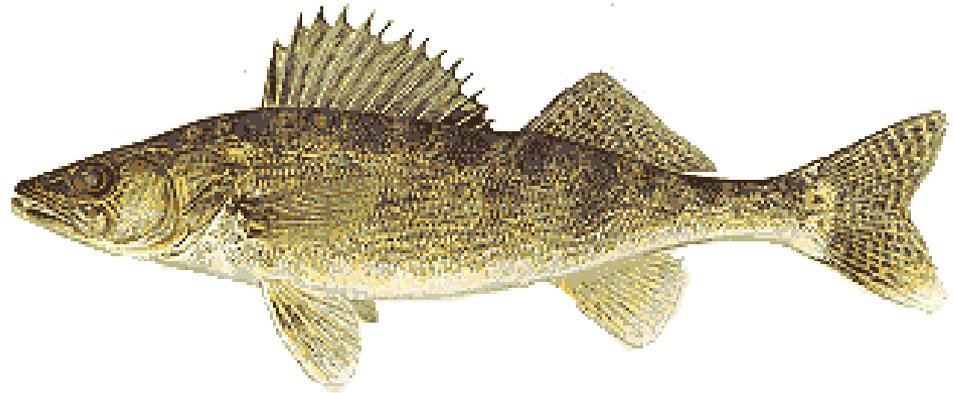
# Delavan Lake - Postmanipulation

Biological  
- Biomanipulation

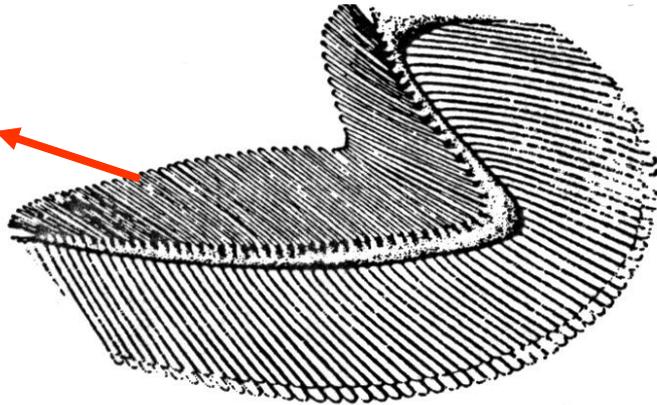




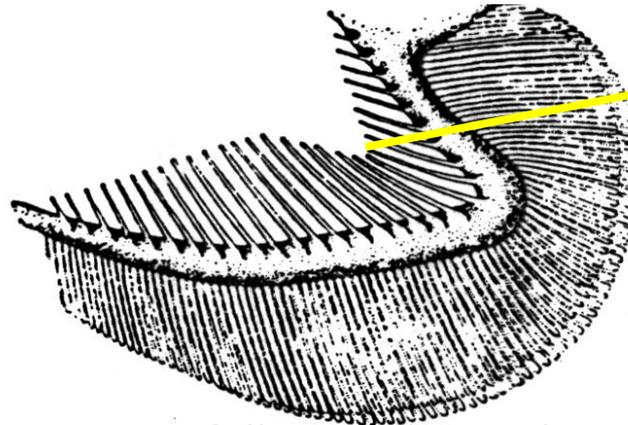
## Planktivores



## Piscivores



## PREmanipulation



## POSTmanipulation

Figure 16-29.

Lower left: First branchial arch with closely spaced gill rakers that act as a plankton sieve. Lower right: First branchial arch with widely spaced gill rakers of *A. mediocris*, a species that feeds primarily on small fish. (From Brooks, J. L., and Dodson, S. I.: Predation, body size, and composition of plankton. *Science*, 150(3692):28-35, 1965. Copyright 1965 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.)



**Rotenone Addition**











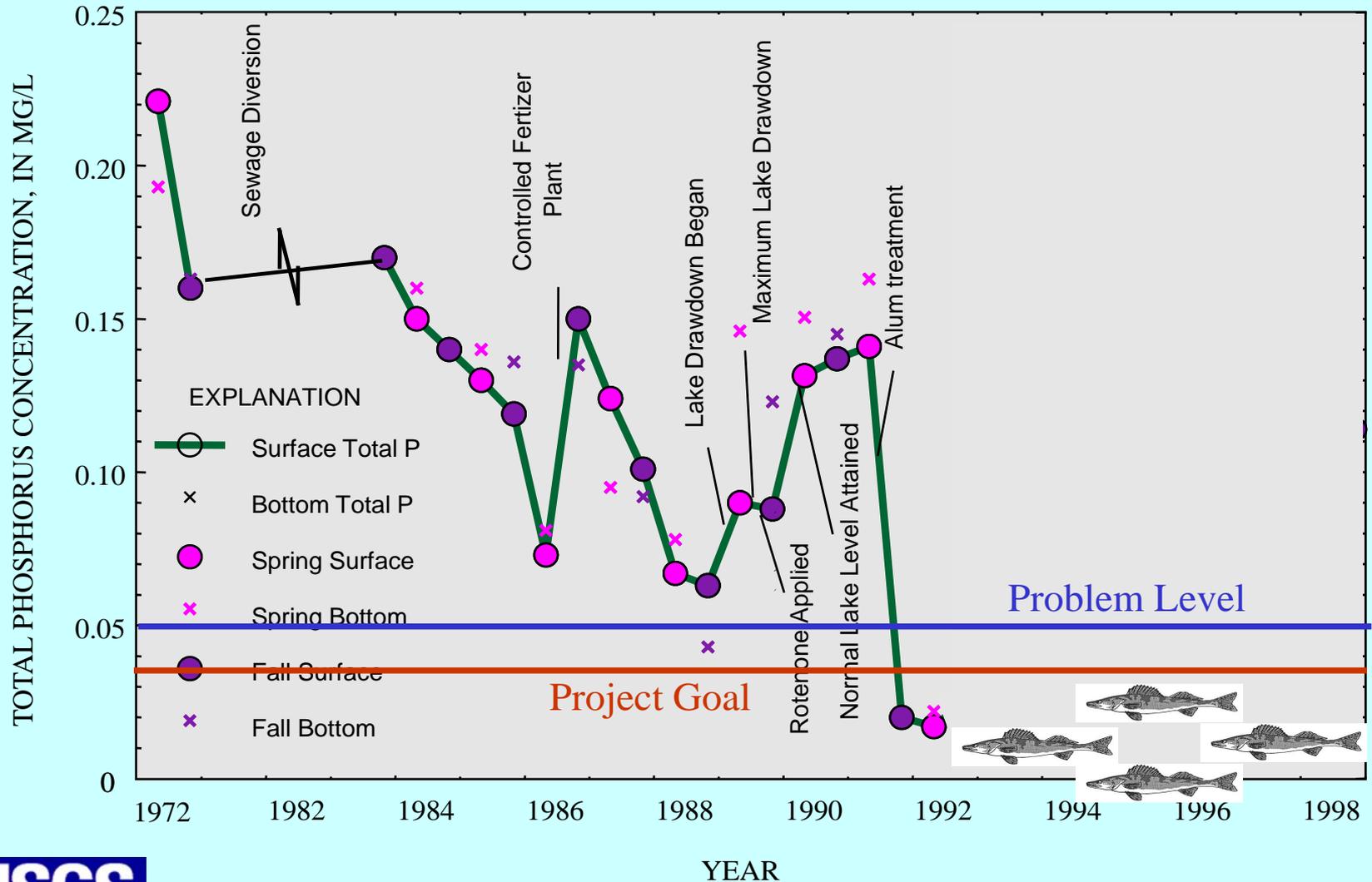








# DELAVAN LAKE TOTAL PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATIONS, 1972-1992





TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

*Honoring The*

DELAVAN LAKE PROJECT

- 1991 -

*In Recognition Of*

*Outstanding Achievement In Lake  
Restoration, Protection and Management*

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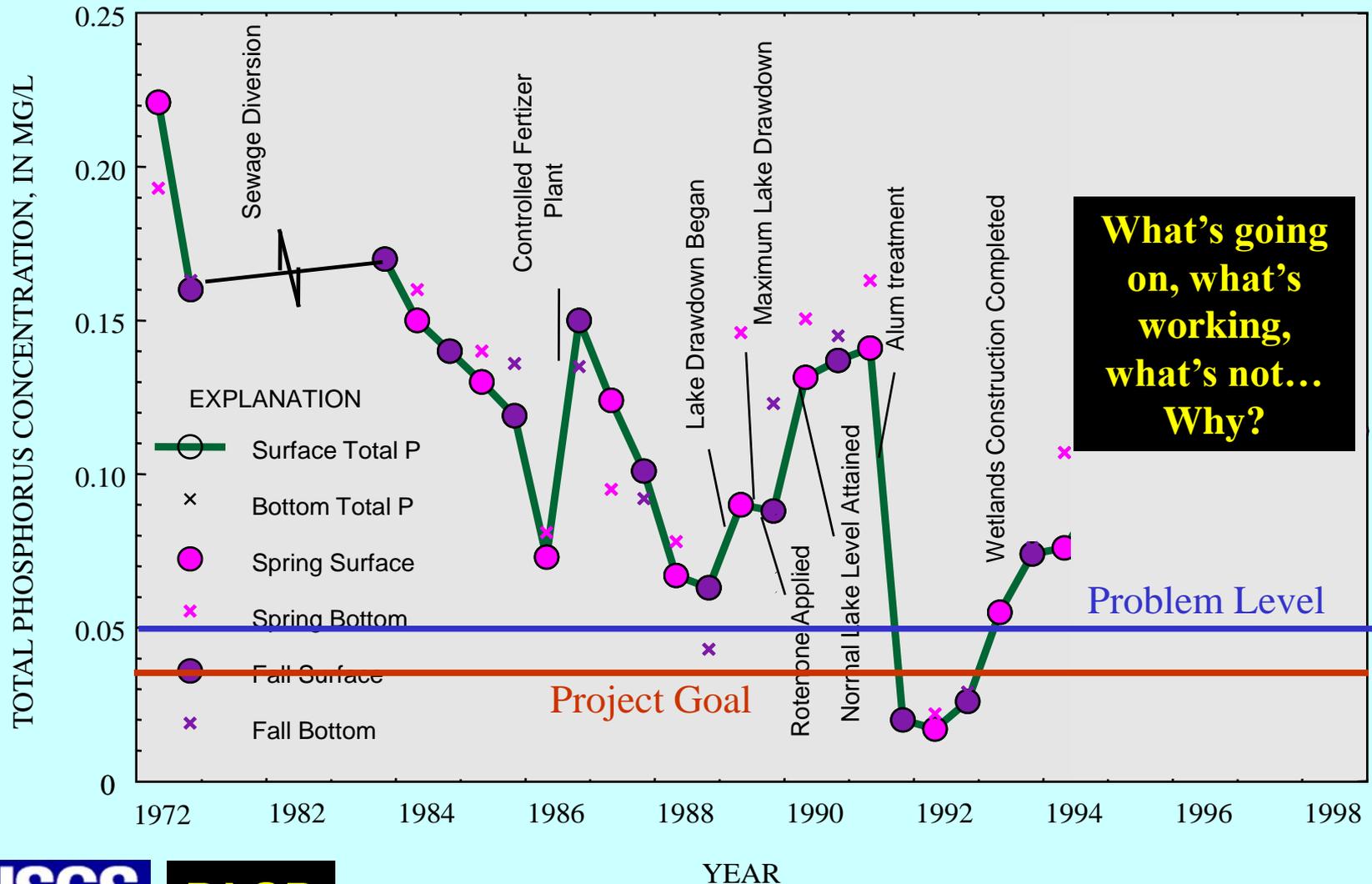
*North American Lake Management Society*

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# Midwest Floods of 1993



# DELAVAN LAKE TOTAL PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATIONS, 1972-1994

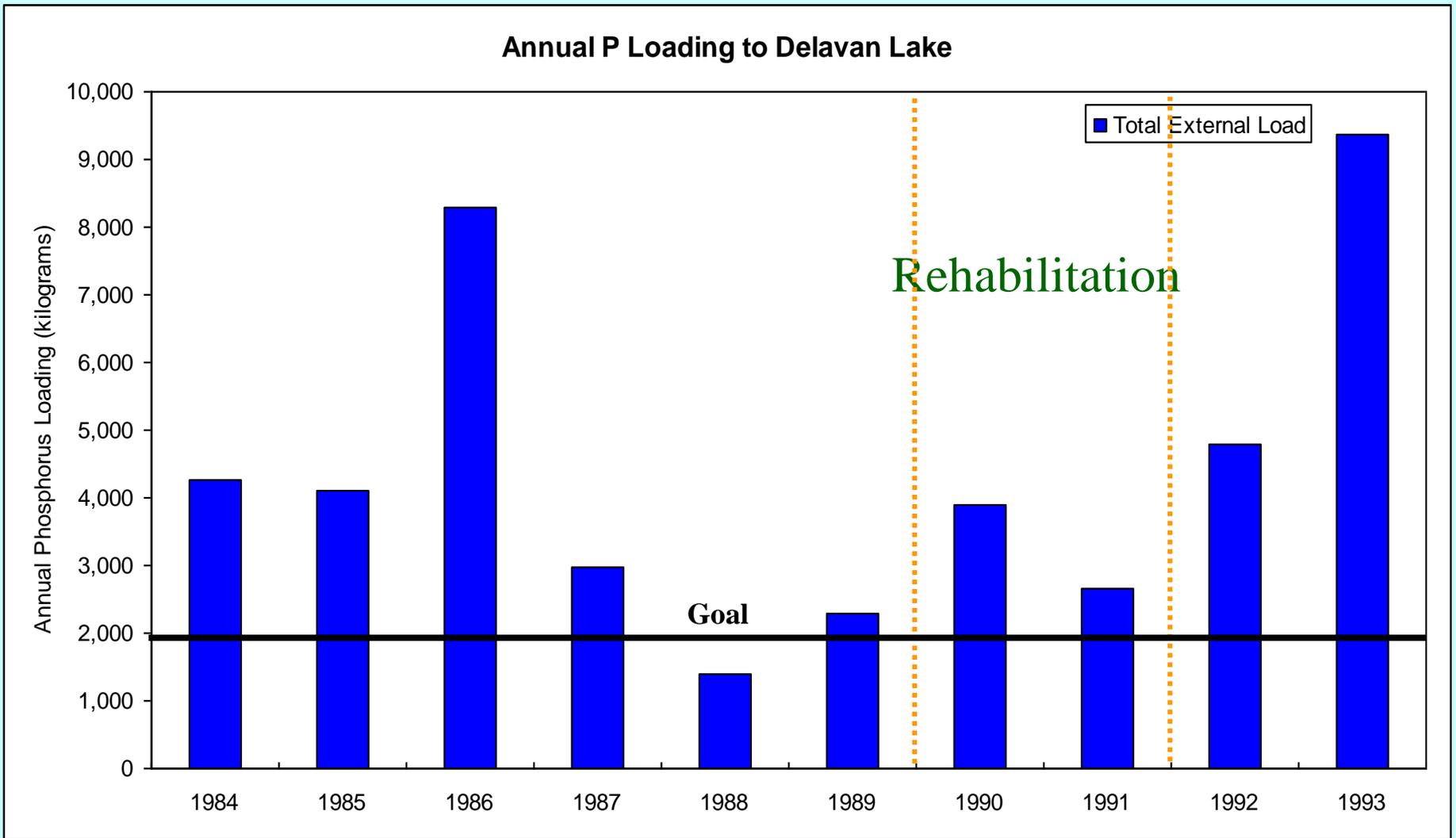




  
**GENEVA LANDINGS**  
A RESORT AREA

  
**GENEVA LANDINGS**  
A RESORT AREA  
MEMBERS & GUESTS  
ONLY  
PRIVATE PROPERTY  
• NO TRESPASSING •  
TRESPASSERS WILL  
BE PROSECUTED

# Phosphorus Loading to Delavan Lake





North Pond

West Pond

East Pond

Delavan Lake Inlet

Jackson Creek Wetland

SEDGE MEADOW

USGS STATION

WET PRAIRIE

WET PRAIRIE

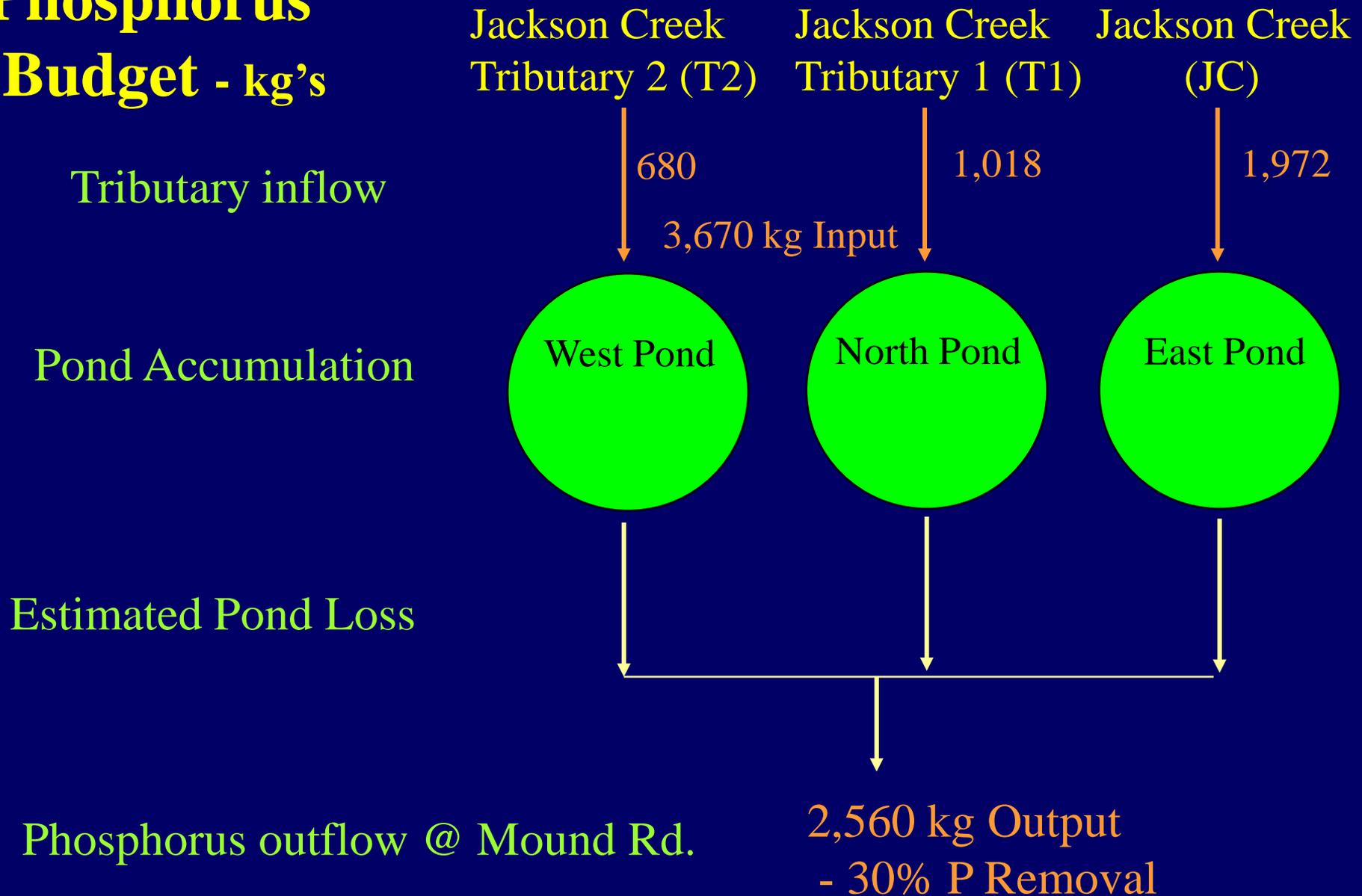
WEIR

USGS STATION

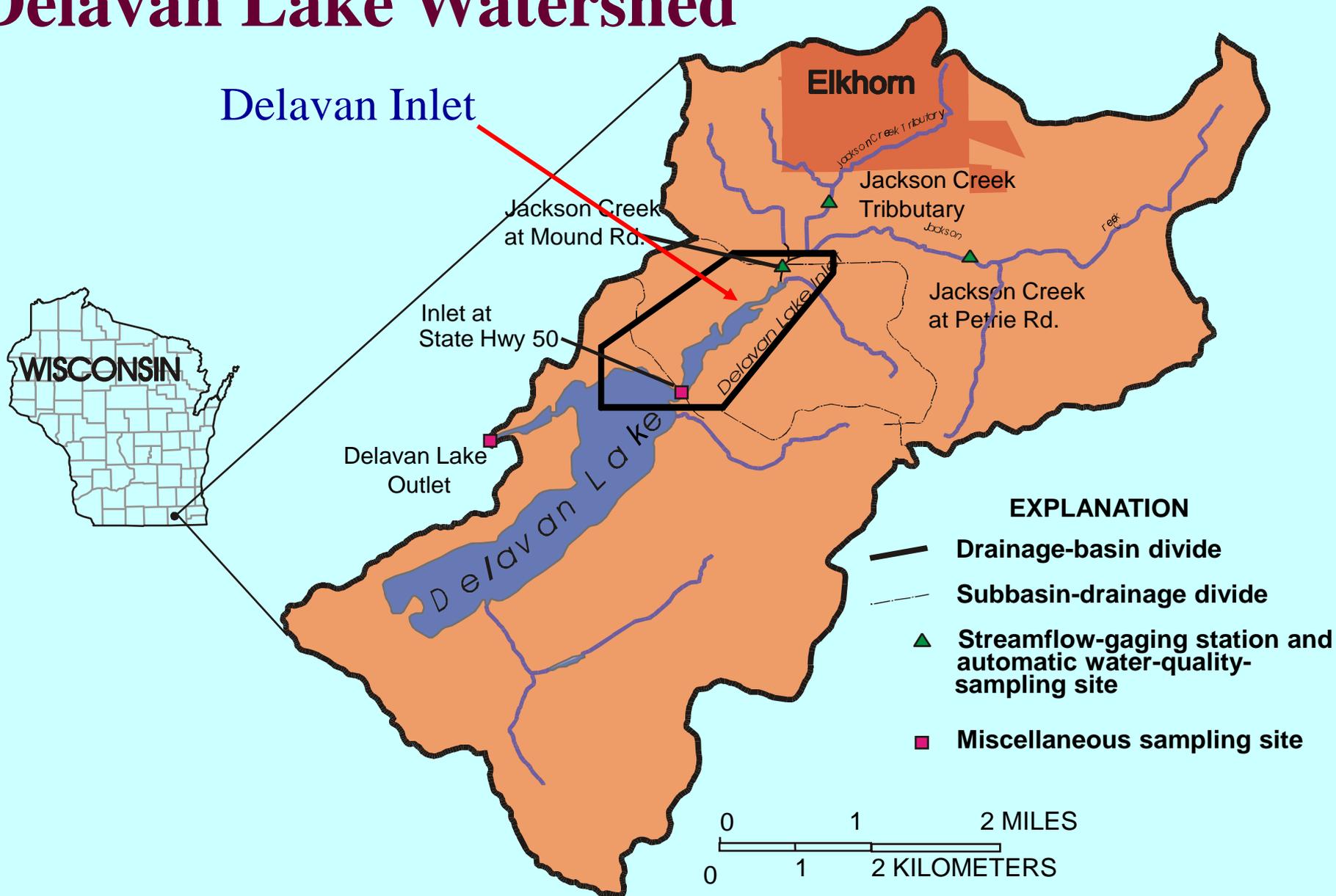
SHALLOW WATER MARSH

SEDGE MEADOW

# Phosphorus Budget - kg's

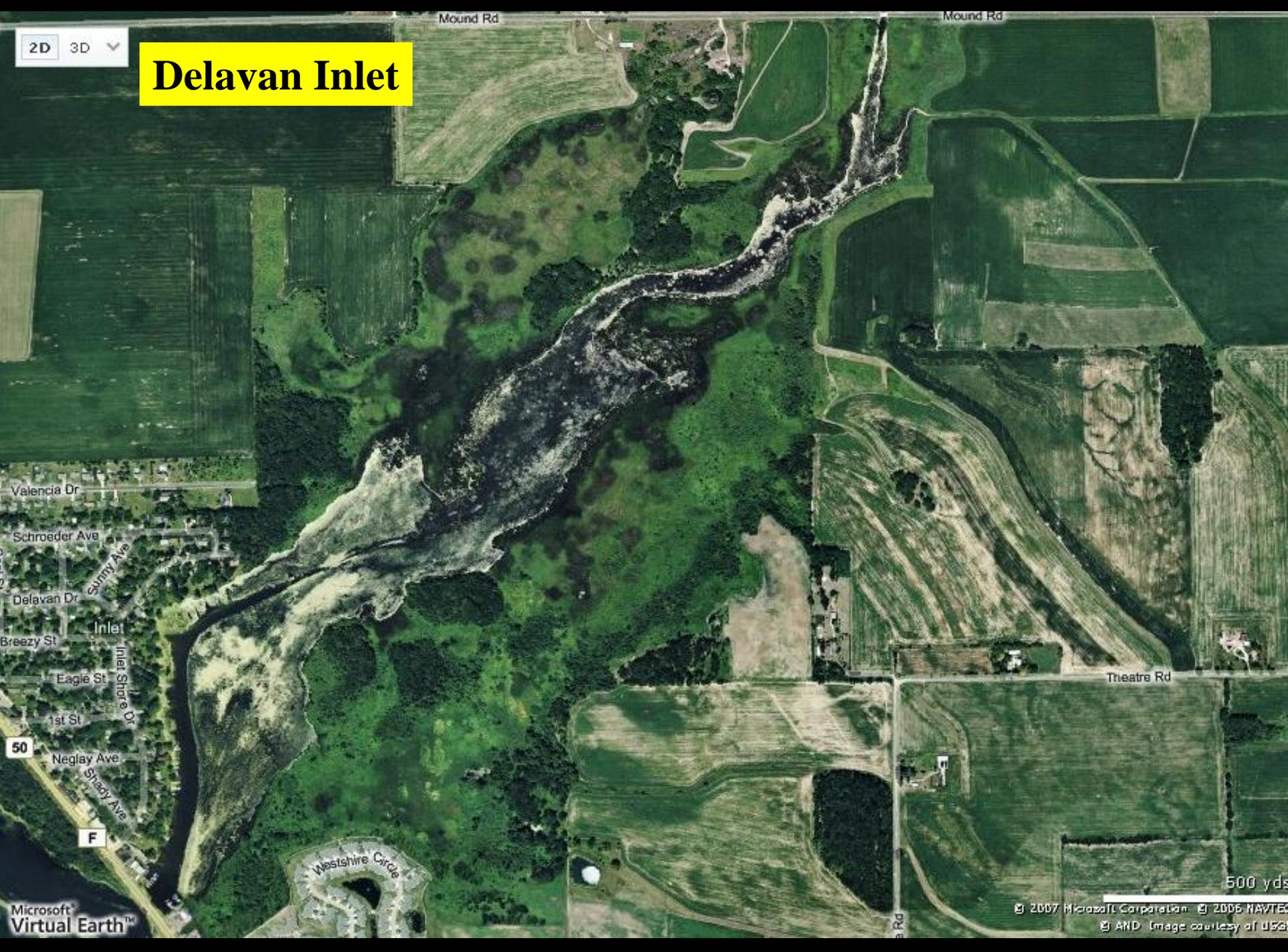


# Delavan Lake Watershed



# Delavan Inlet

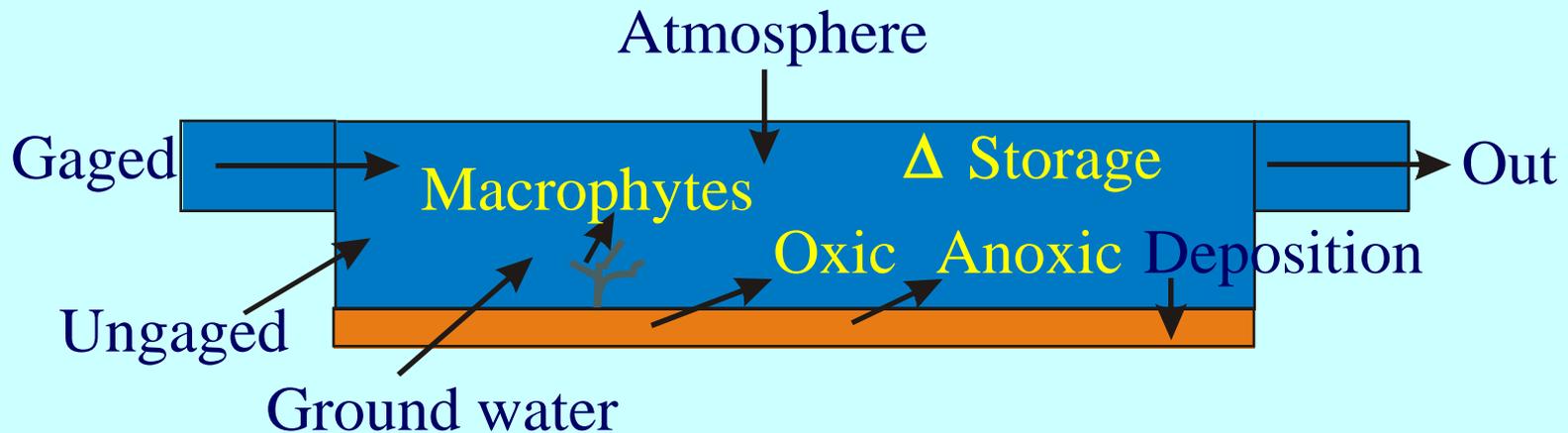
2D 3D



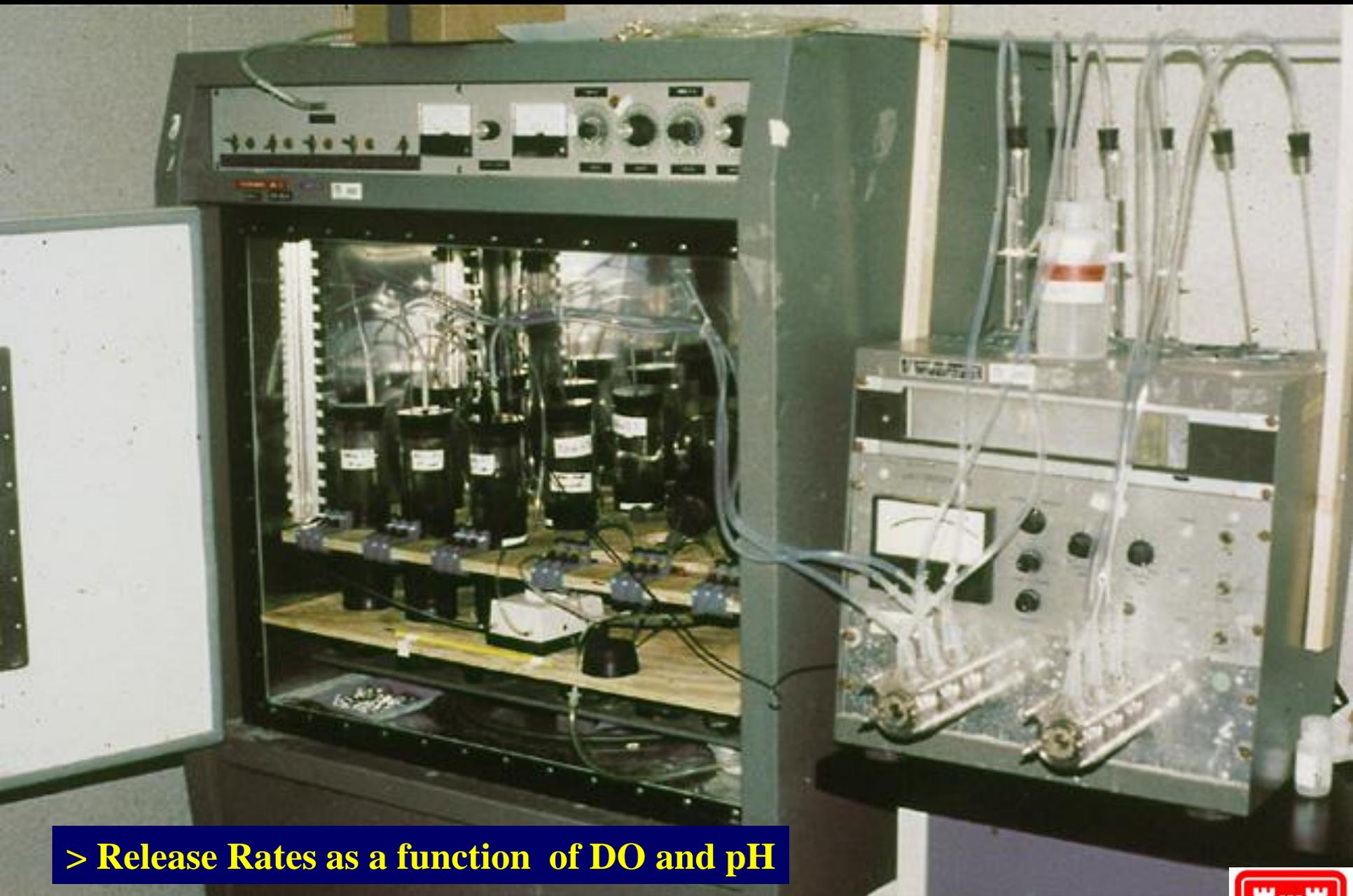


# Phosphorus Budget for Delavan Lake Inlet

$$P_G + P_{UG} + G_{GW} + P_{ATM} + \{(P_{SO} + P_{SA} + P_{MAC}) + \Delta S - P_{DEP}\} = P_{OUT}$$







> Release Rates as a function of DO and pH

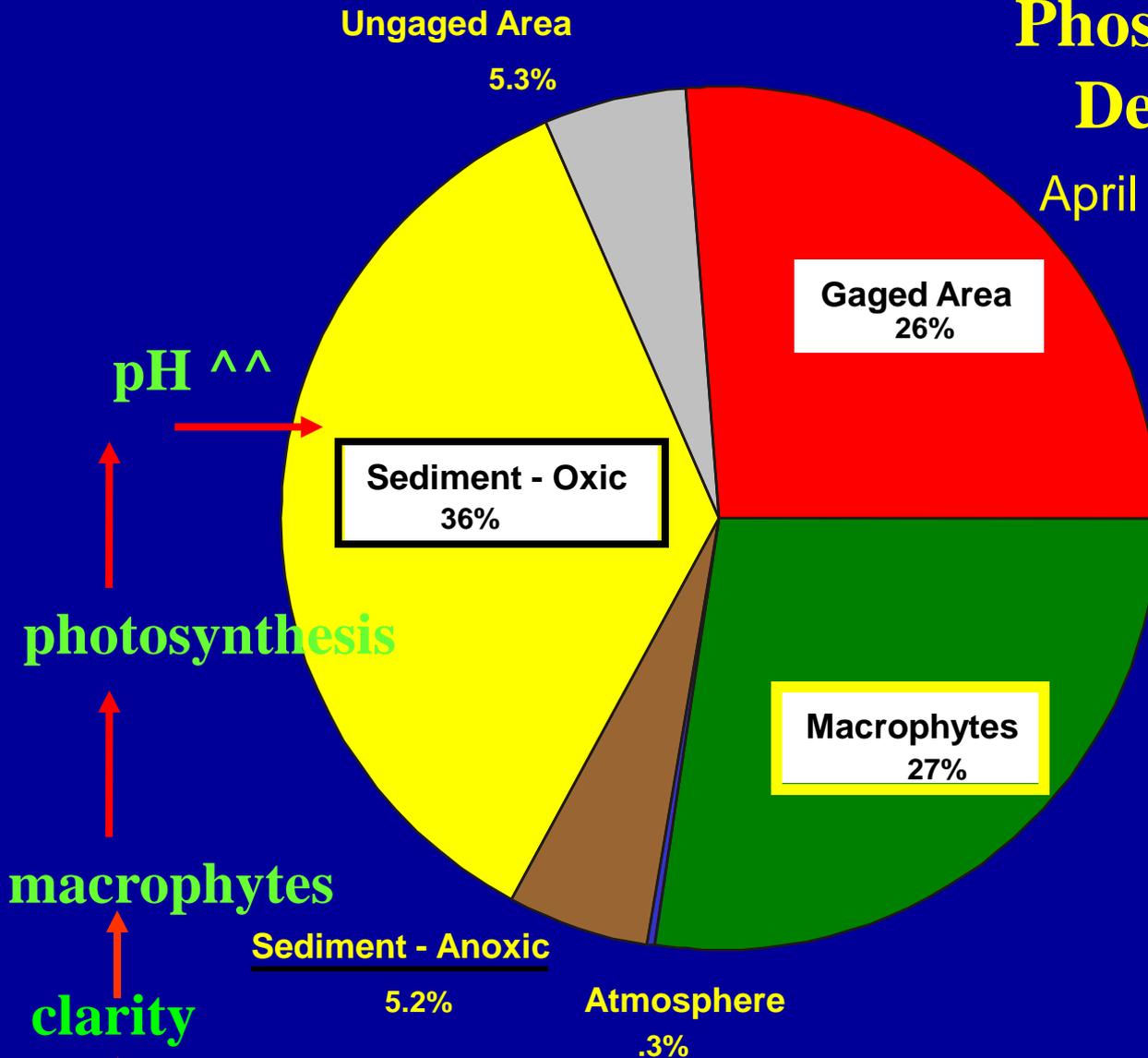




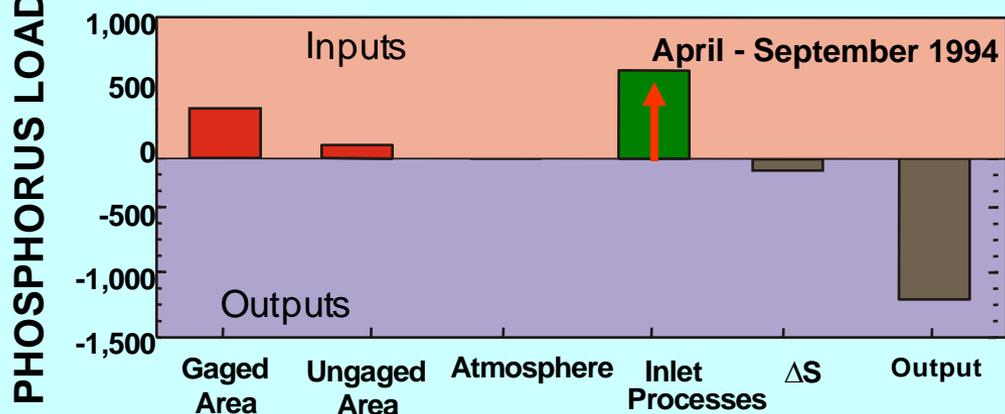
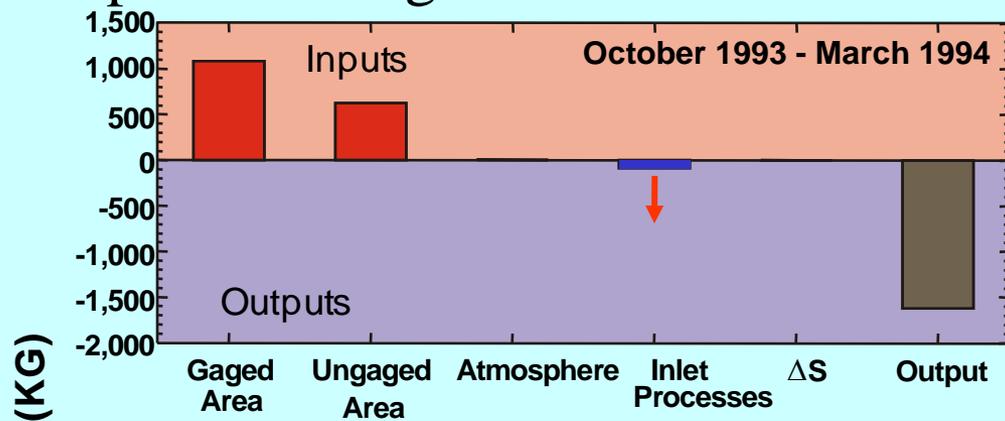
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# Phosphorus Budget for Delavan Lake Inlet

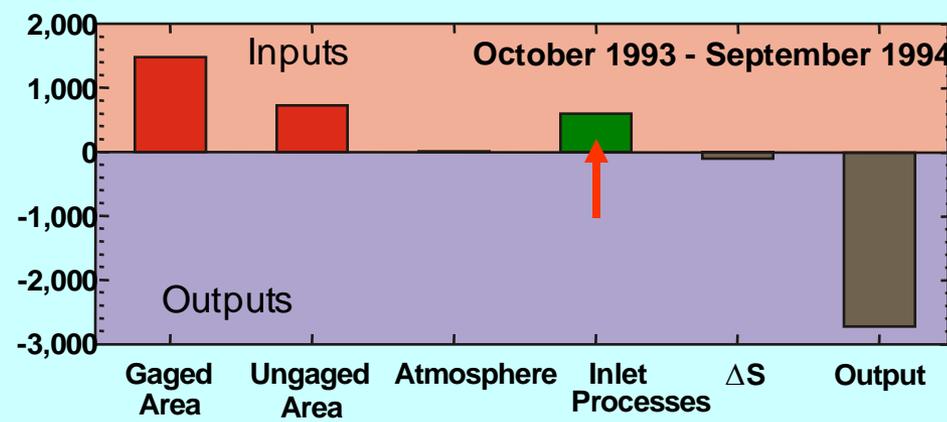
April 14 - September 30, 1994



# Phosphorus Budget for Delavan Lake Inlet



**Detailed Study**



**Annual Budget**

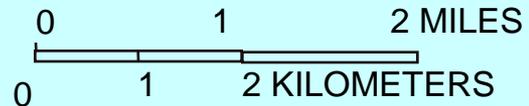
**30%** ↑

# Jackson Creek Short-Circuiting

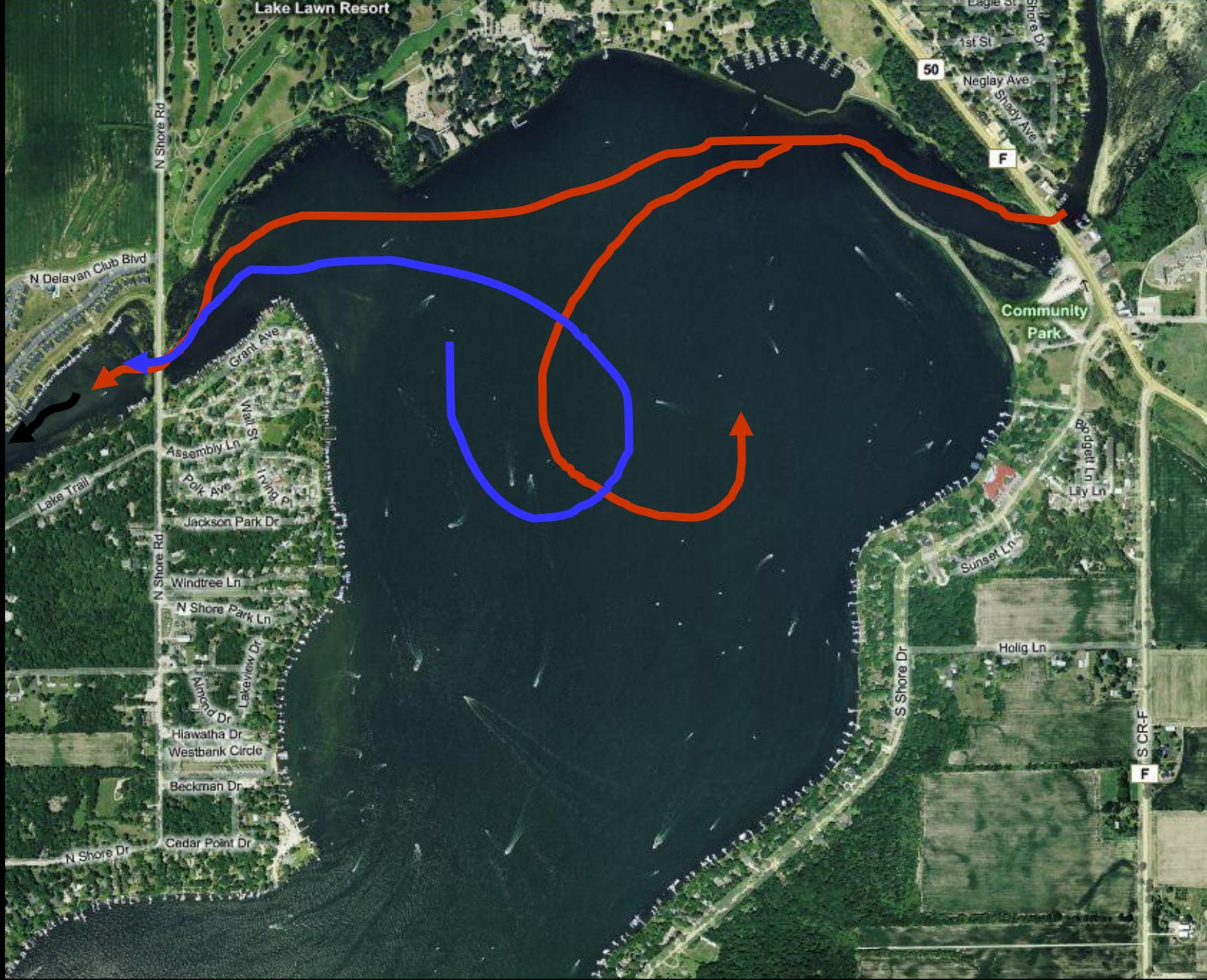


## EXPLANATION

- Drainage-basin divide
- - - Subbasin-drainage divide
- ▲ Streamflow-gaging station and automatic water-quality-sampling site
- Miscellaneous sampling site



Lake Lawn Resort



50

F

S CR-F

F

Community Park

Lake Lawn Resort

N Shore Rd

N Delavan Club Blvd

N Shore Rd

N Shore Dr

N Shore Rd

Cedar Point Dr

Beckman Dr

Westbank Circle

Hiawatha Dr

Navard Dr

N Shore Park Ln

Windtree Ln

Jackson Park Dr

Polk Ave

Assembly Ln

Irving Pl

Grant Ave

Assembly Ln

Polk Ave

Irving Pl

Grant Ave

Assembly Ln

Polk Ave

Irving Pl

Grant Ave

Assembly Ln

Eagle St

1st St

Neglay Ave

Shady Ave

Shore Dr

Boodett Ln

Lily Ln

Sunset Ln

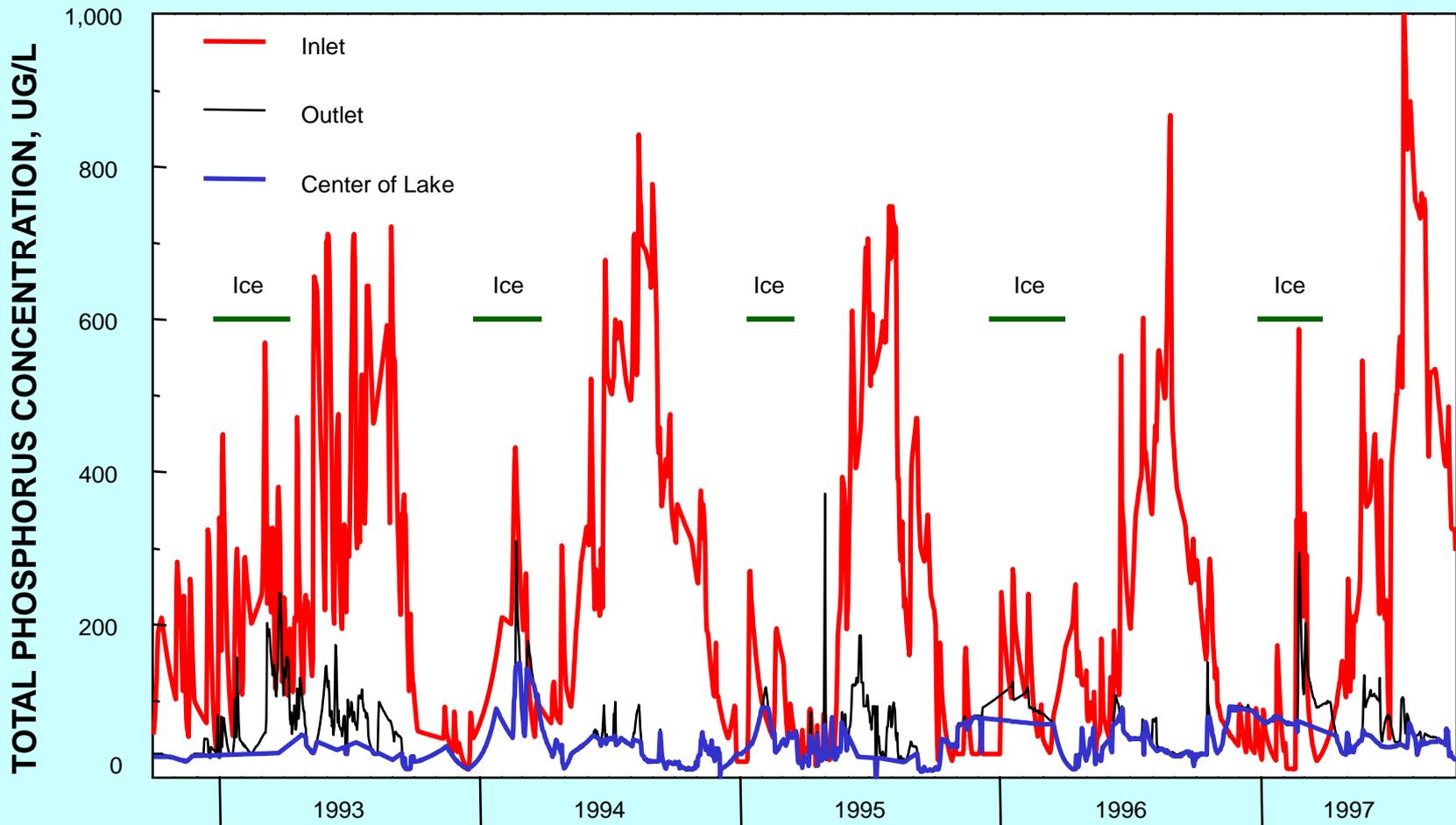
Holly Ln

S CR-F

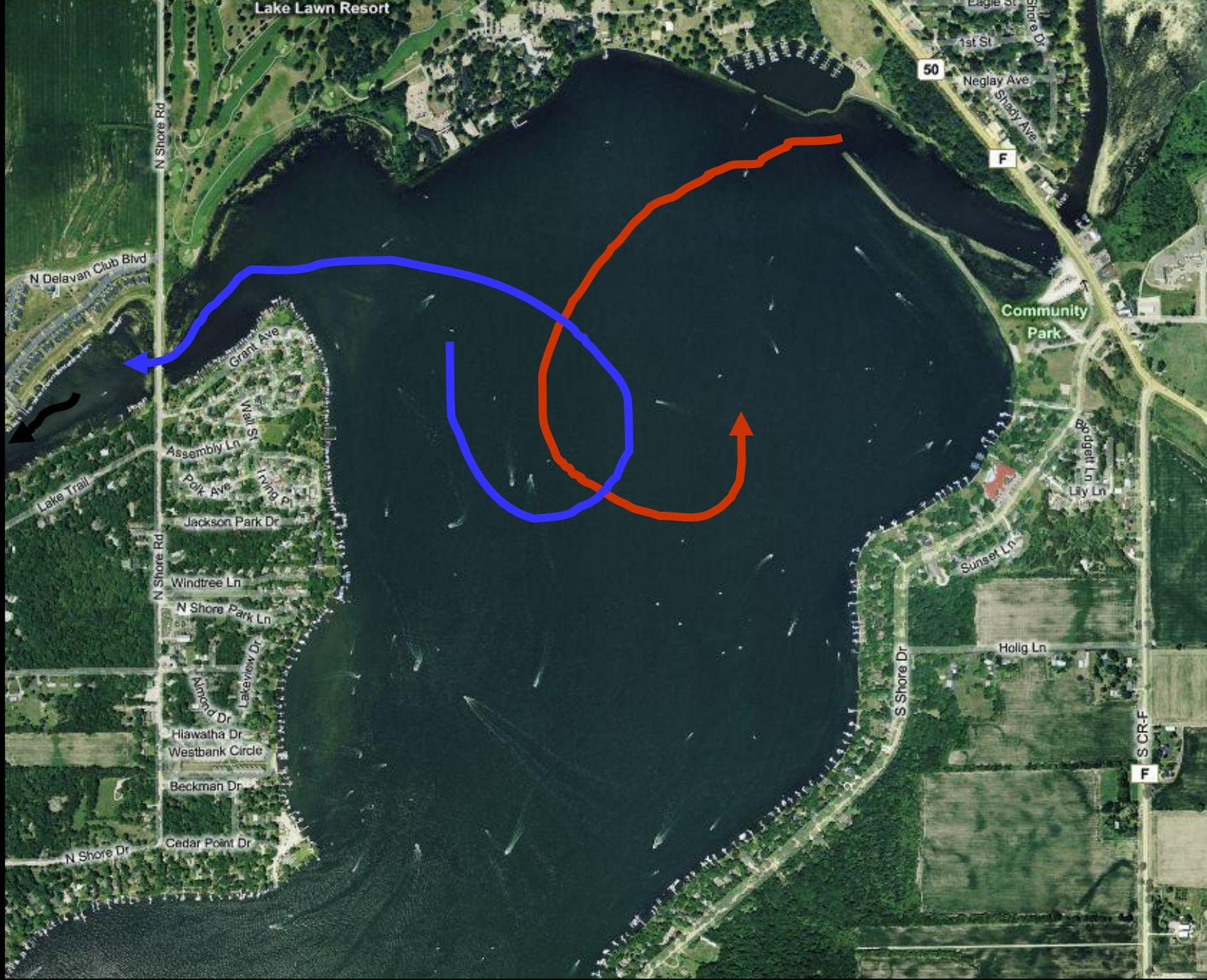
F

Community Park

Lake Lawn Resort



Lake Lawn Resort



50

F

F

Community Park

N Shore Rd

N Delavan Club Blvd

N Shore Rd

S Shore Dr

SCR-F

N Shore Dr

Grant Ave

Assembly Ln

N Shore Park Ln

Beckman Dr

Cedar Point Dr

Noyard Dr

Westbank Circle

Hiawatha Dr

Lakewood Dr

Jackson Park Dr

Polk Ave

Irving Pl

Sunset Ln

Holly Ln

Boadett Ln

Lily Ln

1st St

Neglay Ave

Shady Ave

Eagle St

Shore Dr



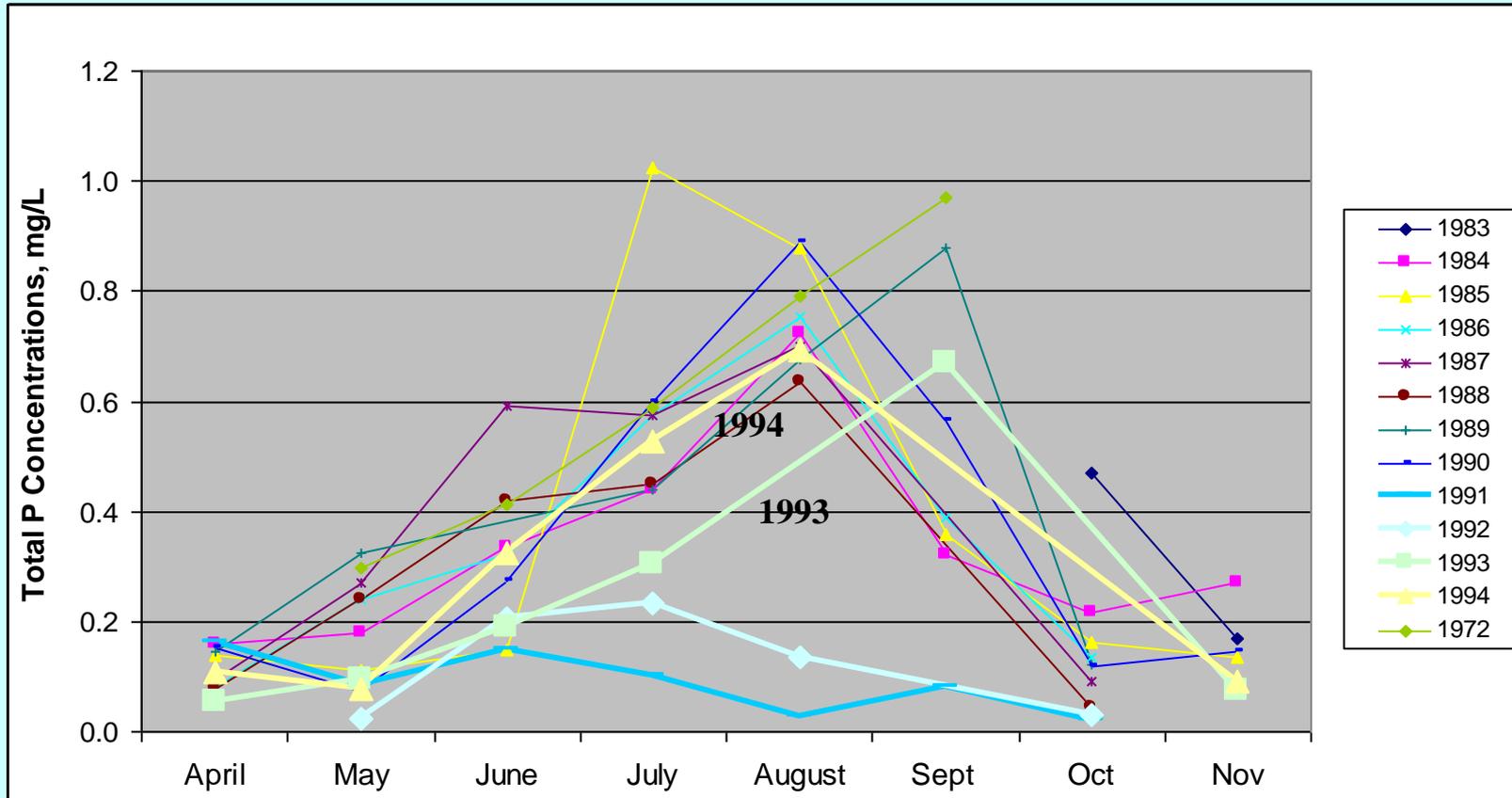


Internal Sources

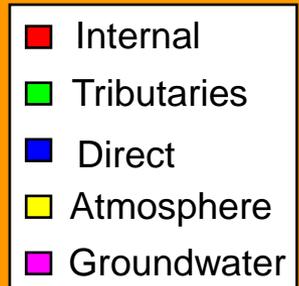
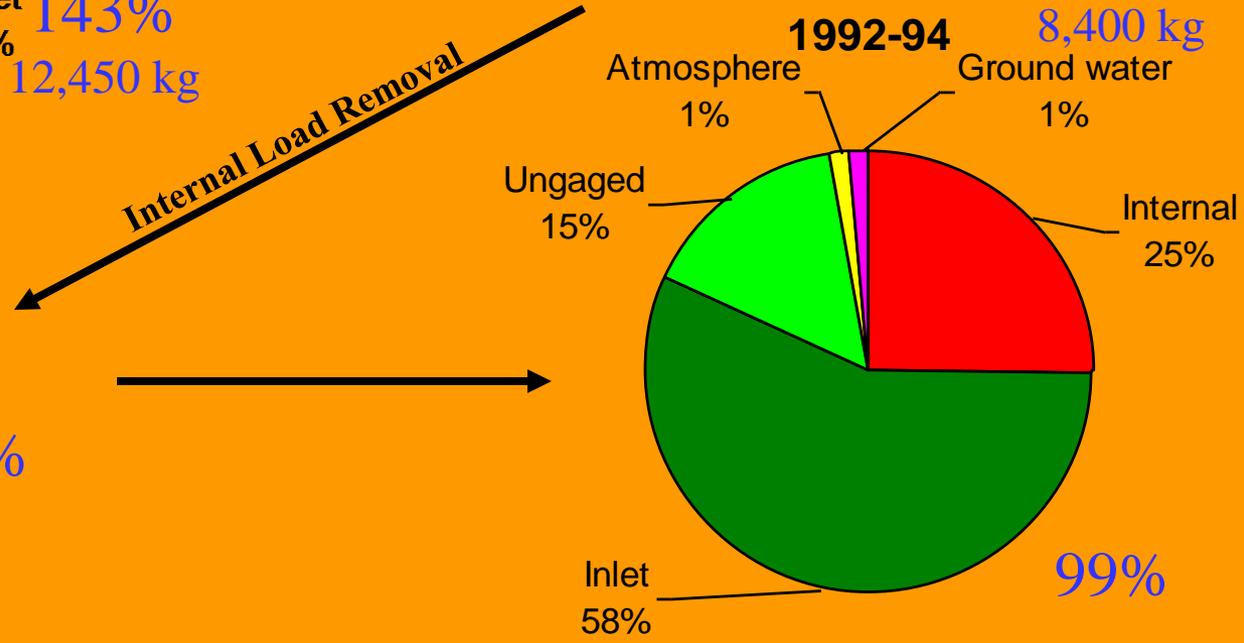
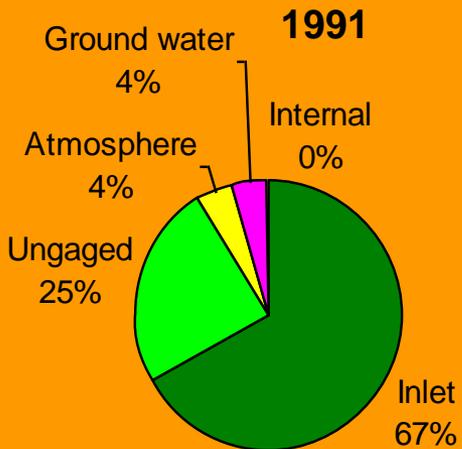
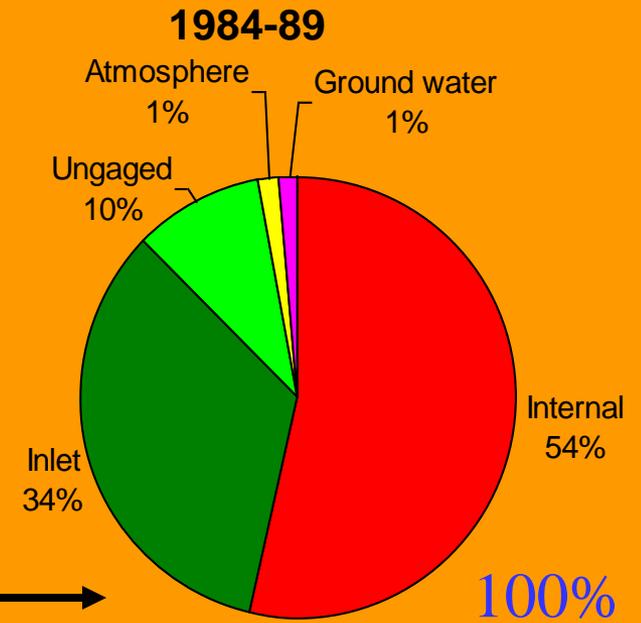
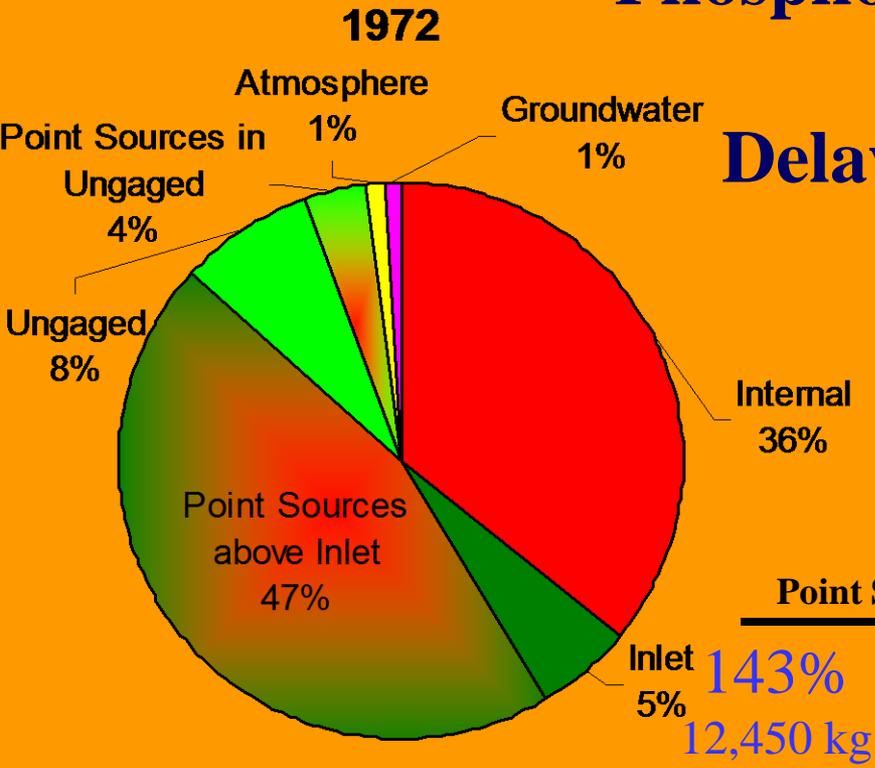
Chemical Application of Alum

# Internal Loading

## Near Bottom Total Phosphorus Concentrations



# Phosphorus Budgets For Delavan Lake

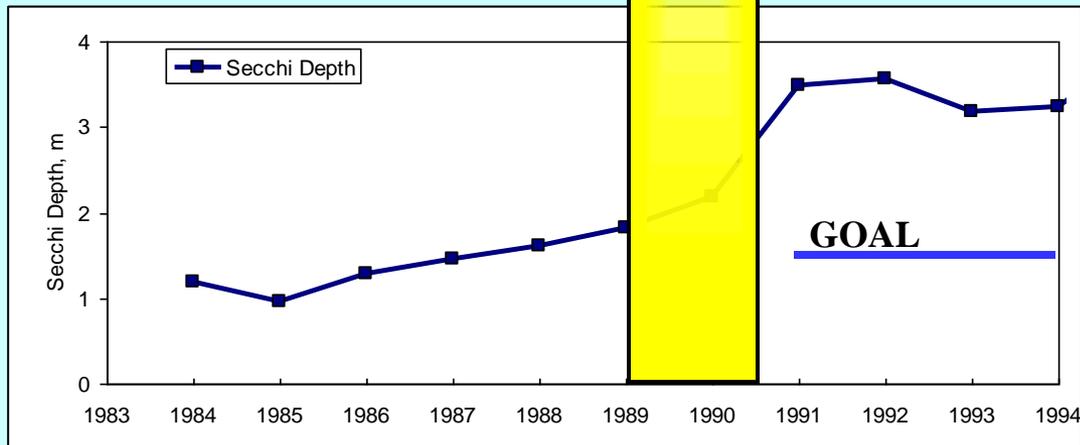
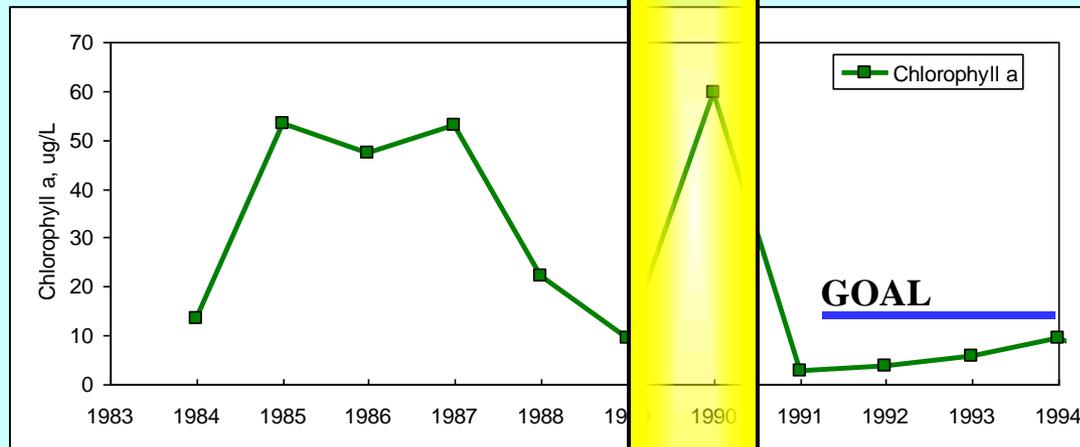
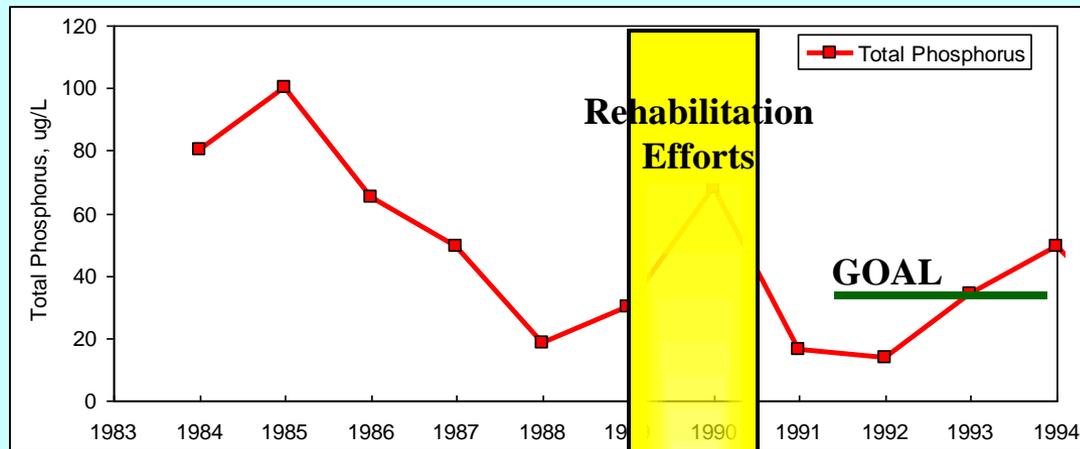


Point Source Removal

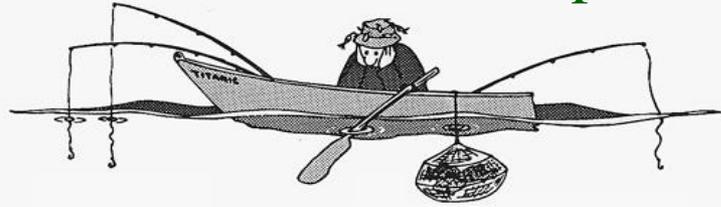
Internal Load Removal

# In-lake Water Quality

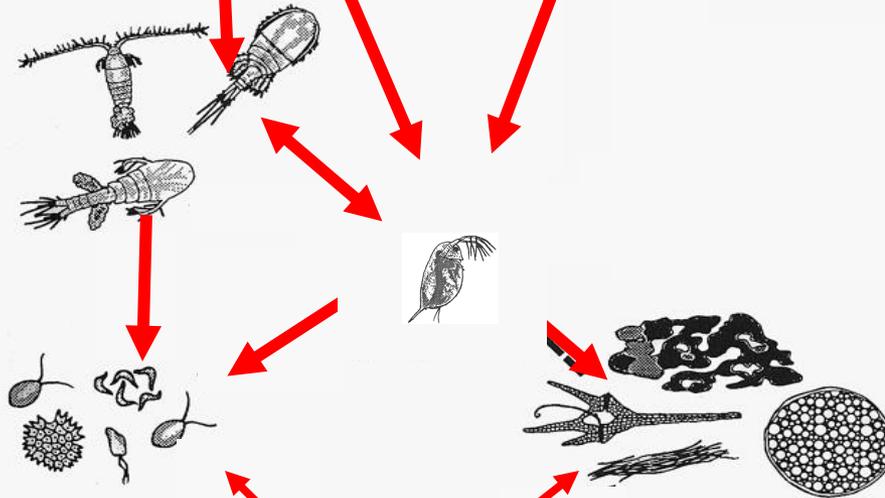
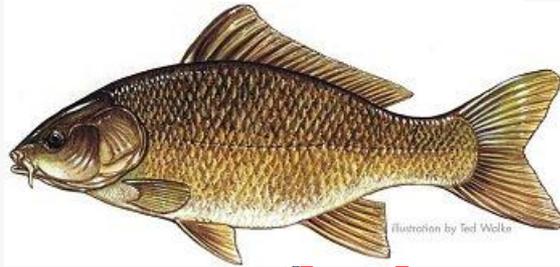
## Summer Average June - August



# Delavan Lake - Premanipulation

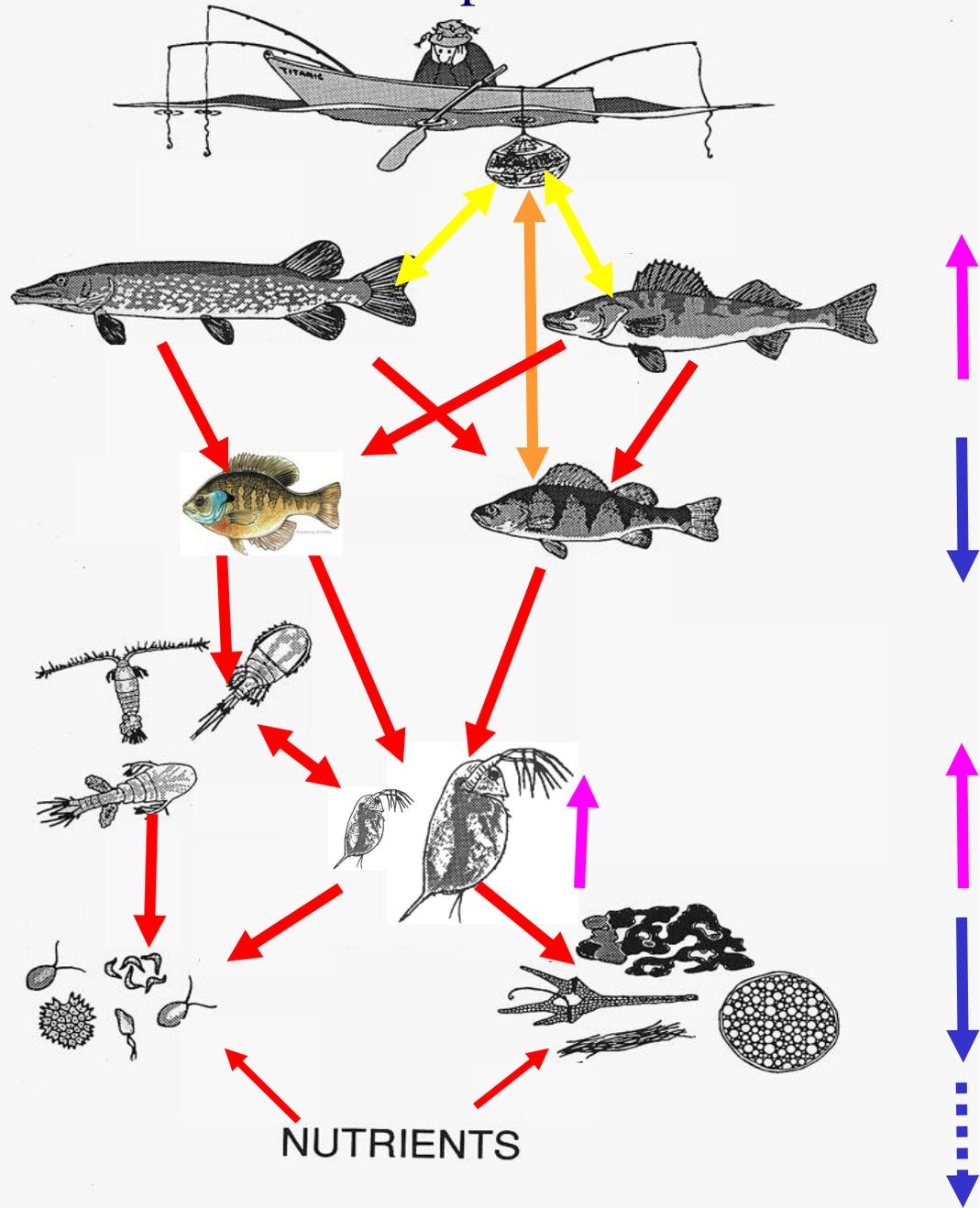


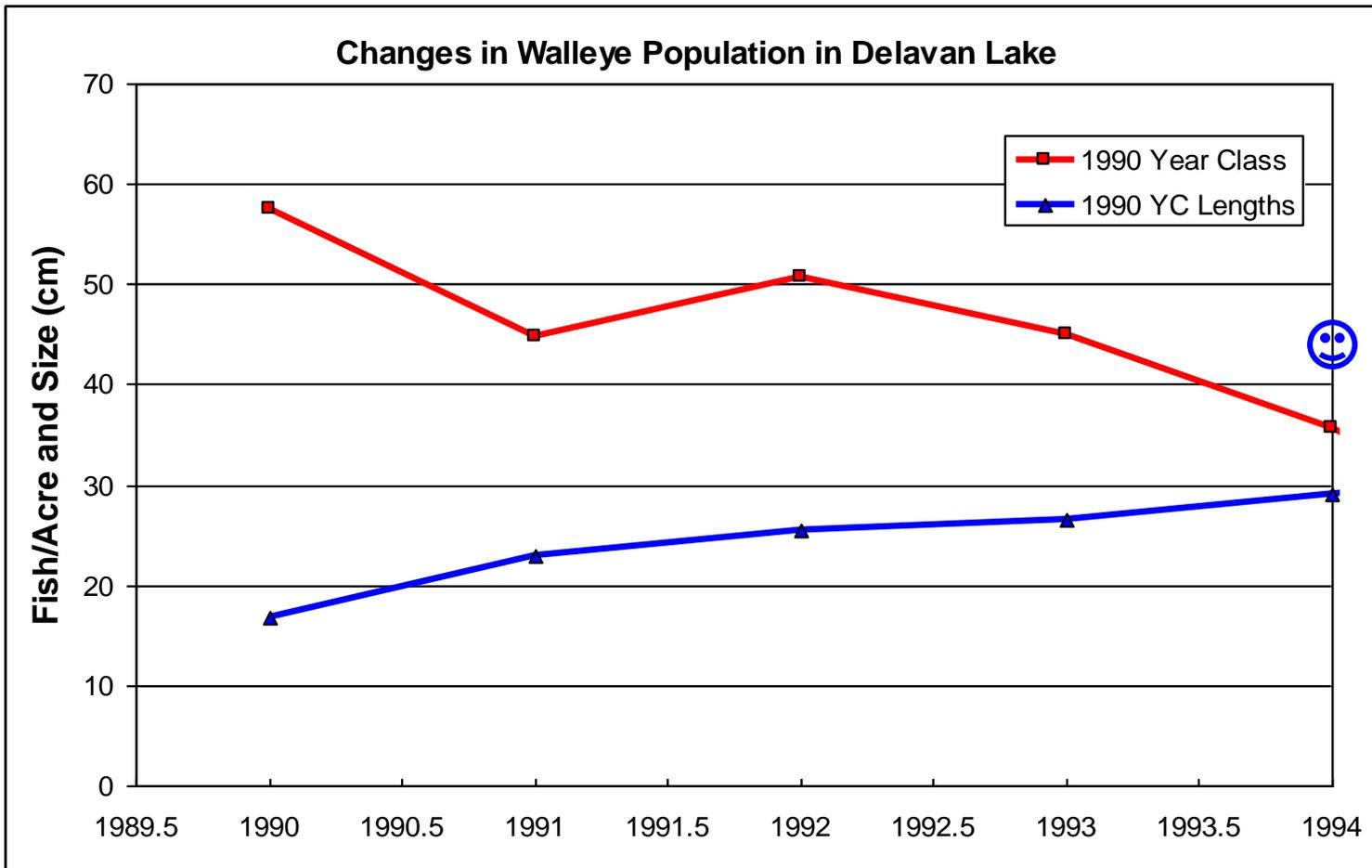
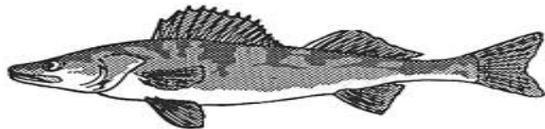
## Carp & Buffalo



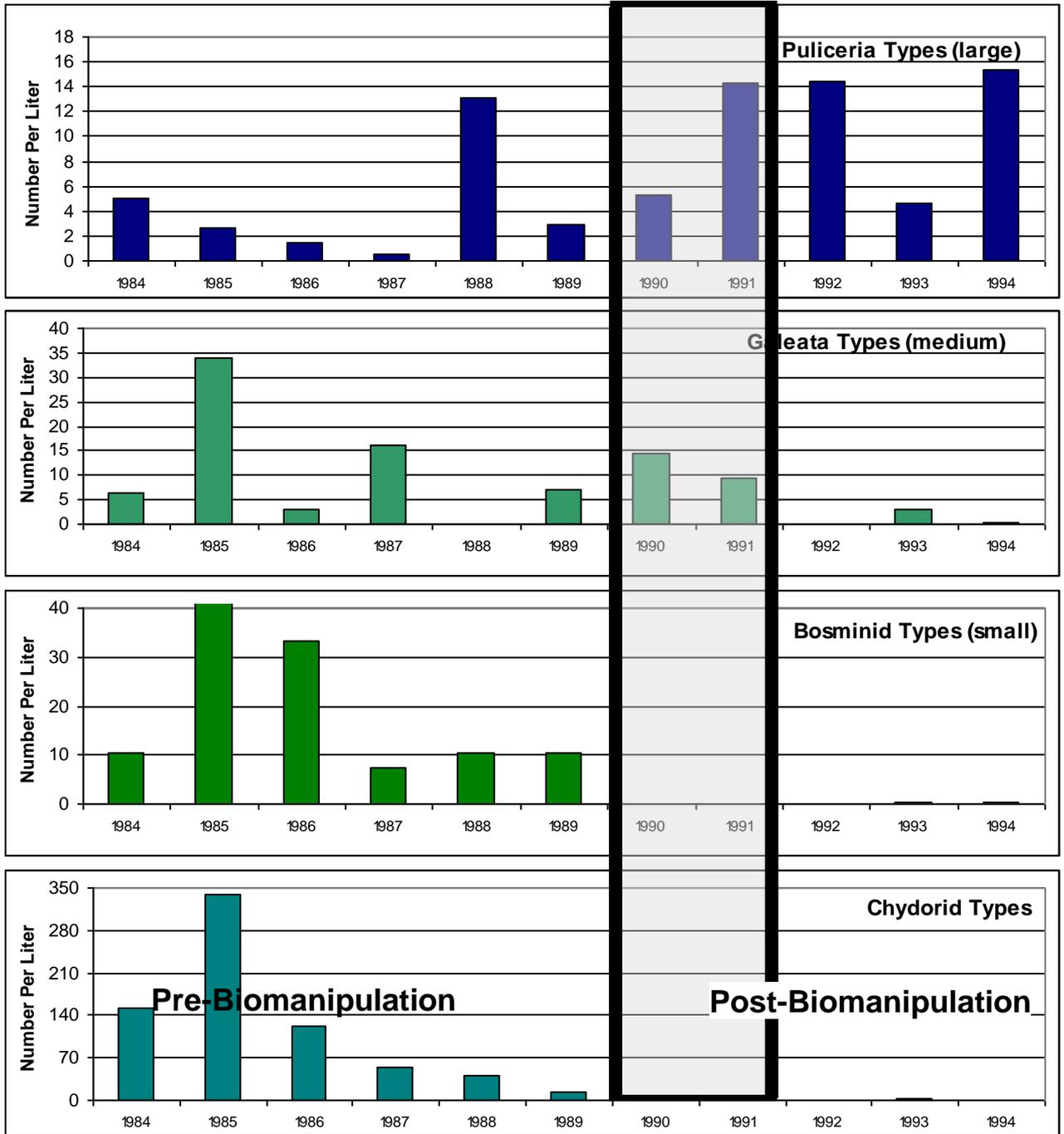
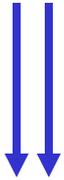
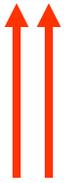
NUTRIENTS

# Post-manipulation

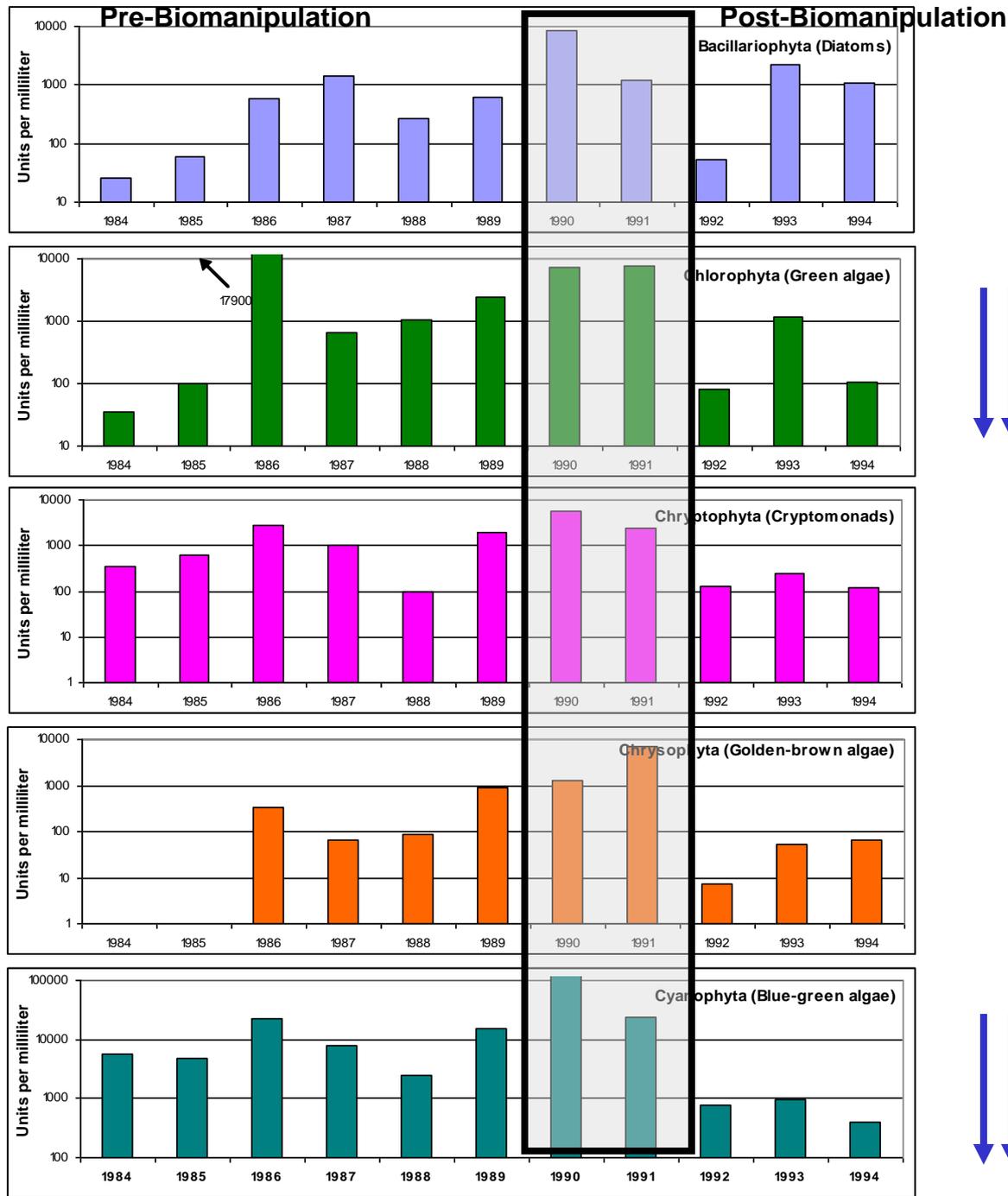




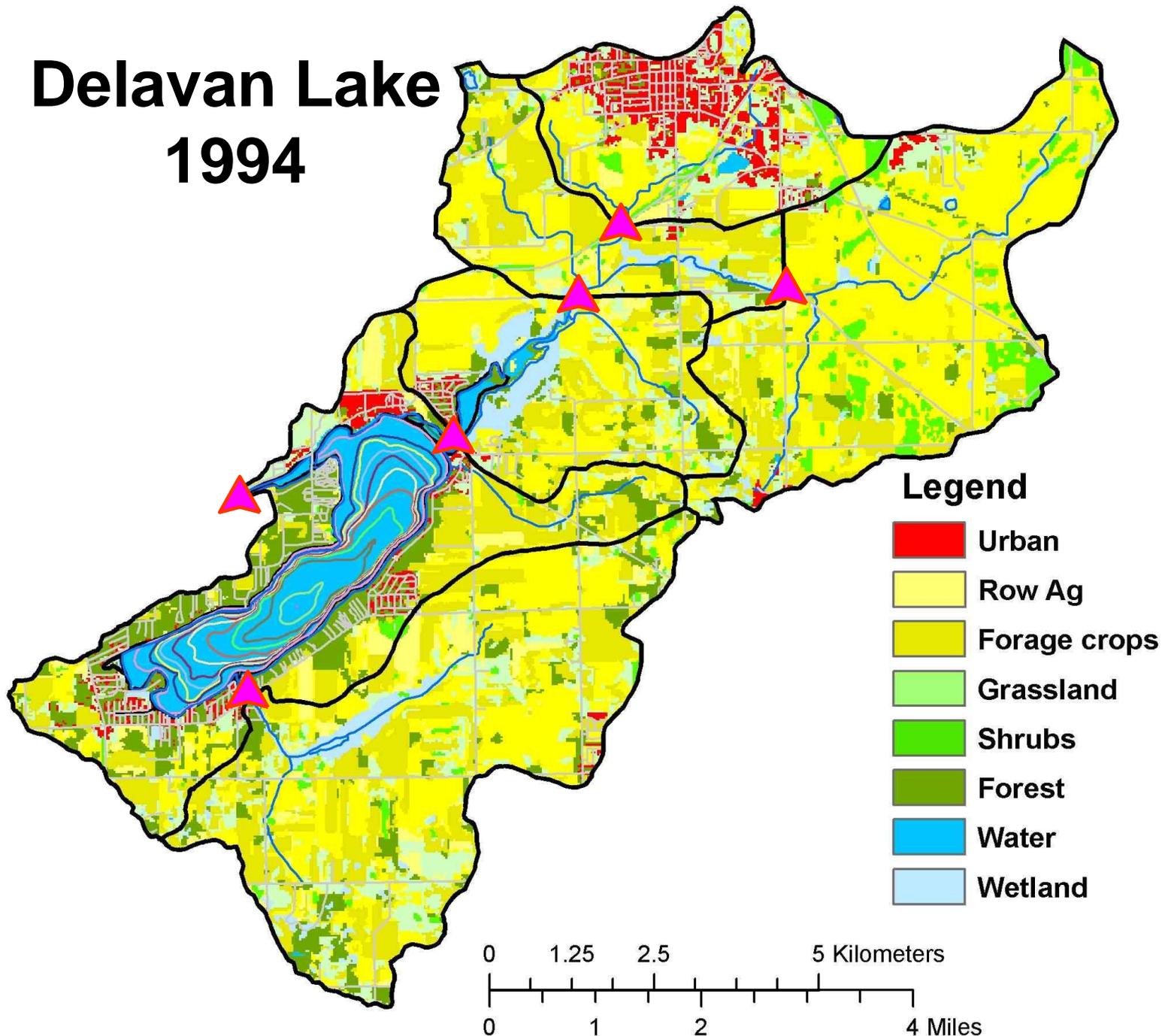
# Zooplankton Populations



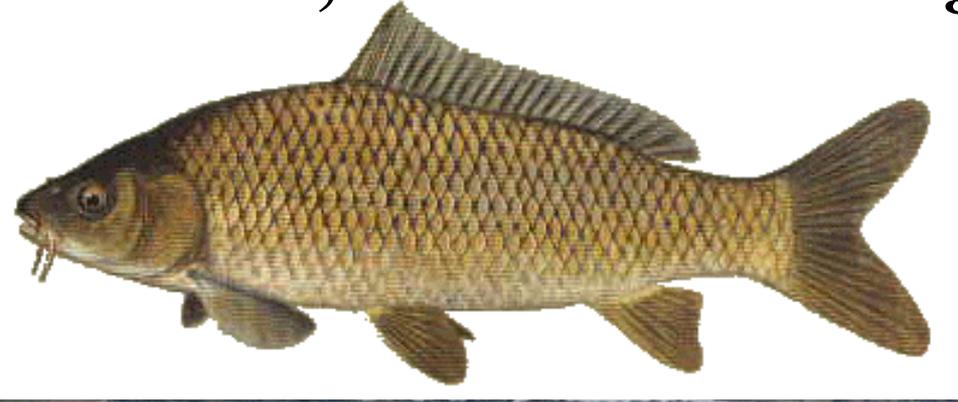
# Phytoplankton Populations



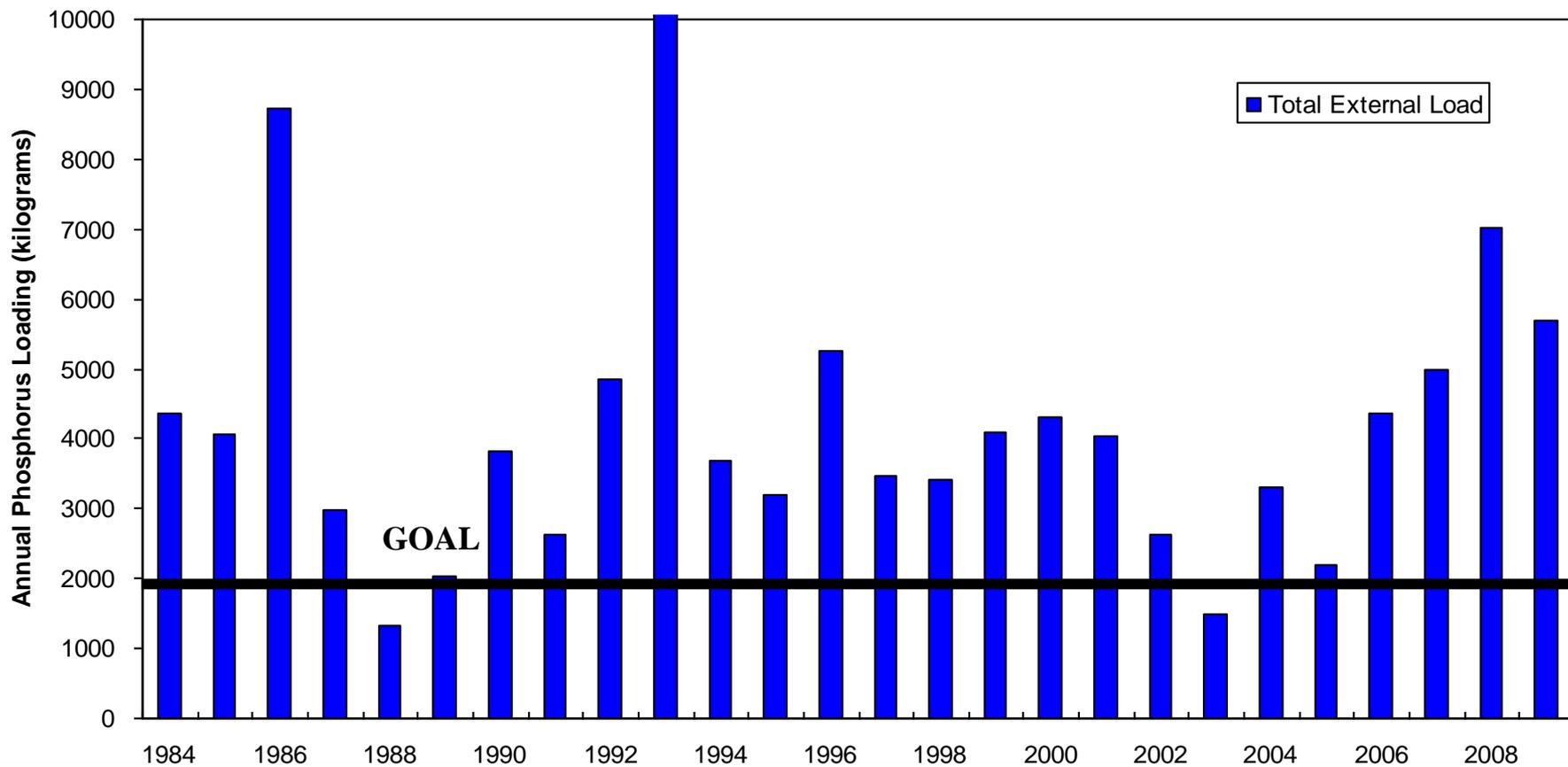
# Delavan Lake 1994



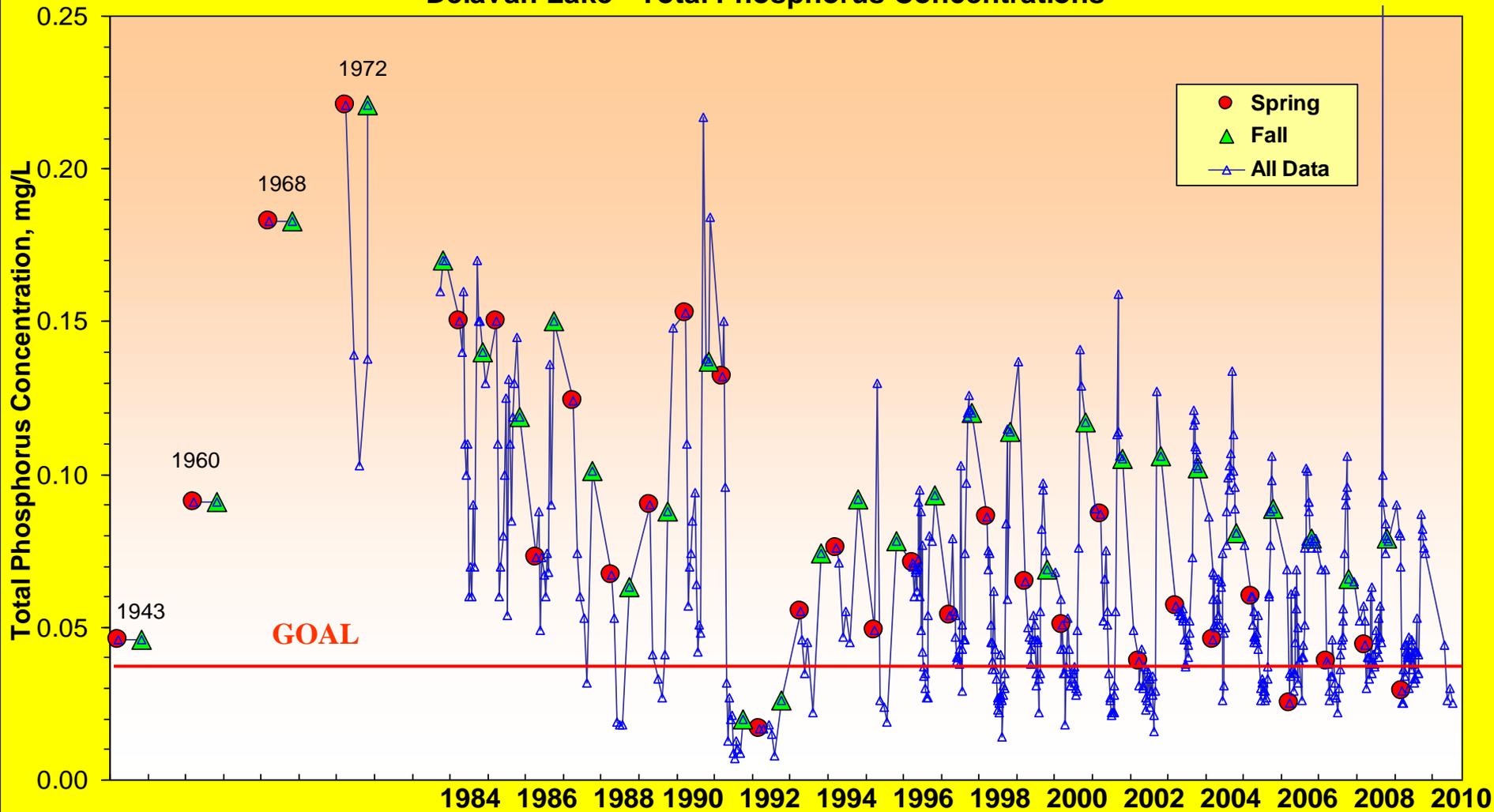
**But, where have things gone since 1994??**



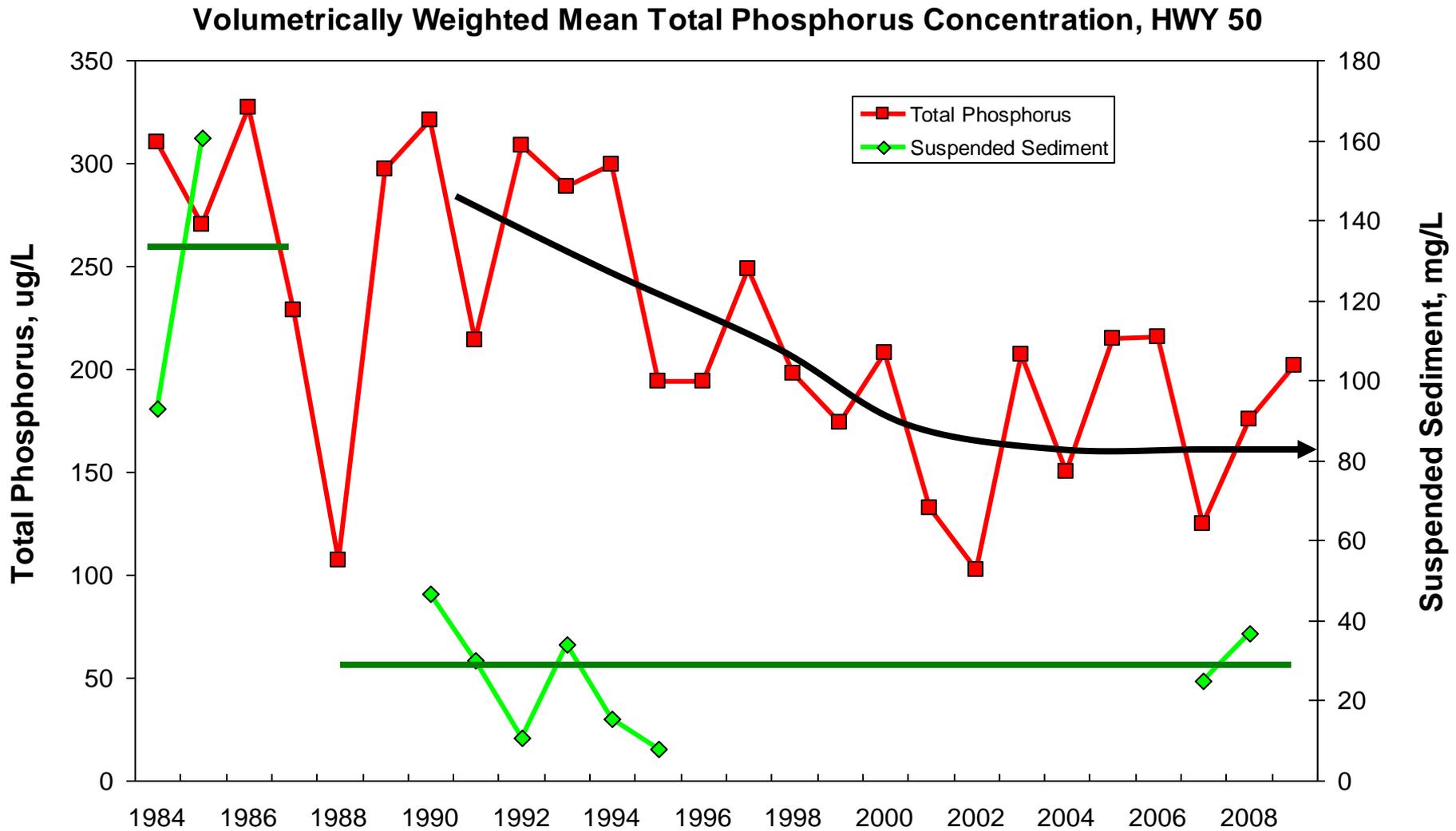
### Total External Annual P Loading to Delavan Lake



# Delavan Lake - Total Phosphorus Concentrations



# Has there been changes in the Watershed??

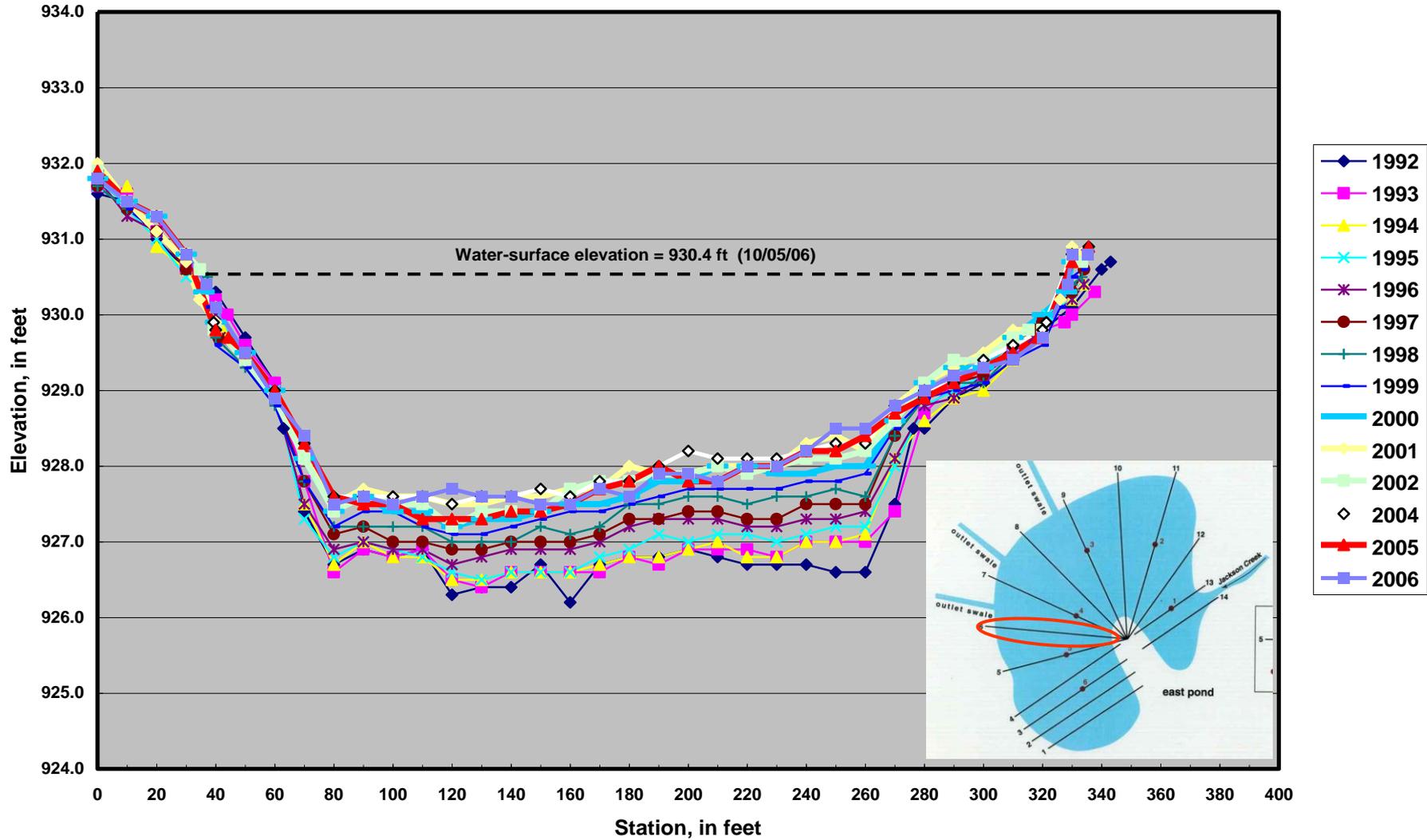


# Are the Wetlands Still Working

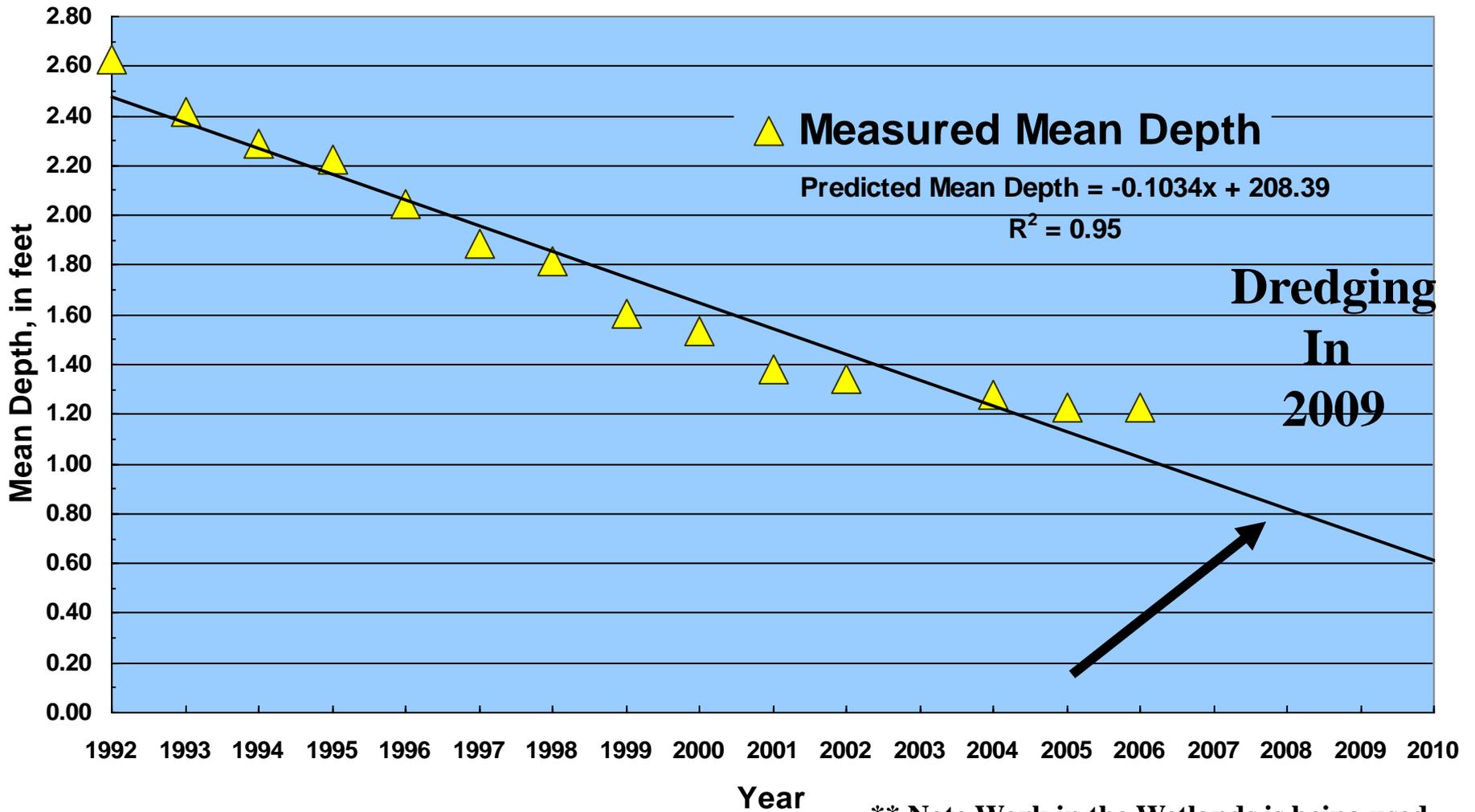


## Jackson Creek Wetland

# East Pond, Cross Section Number 6

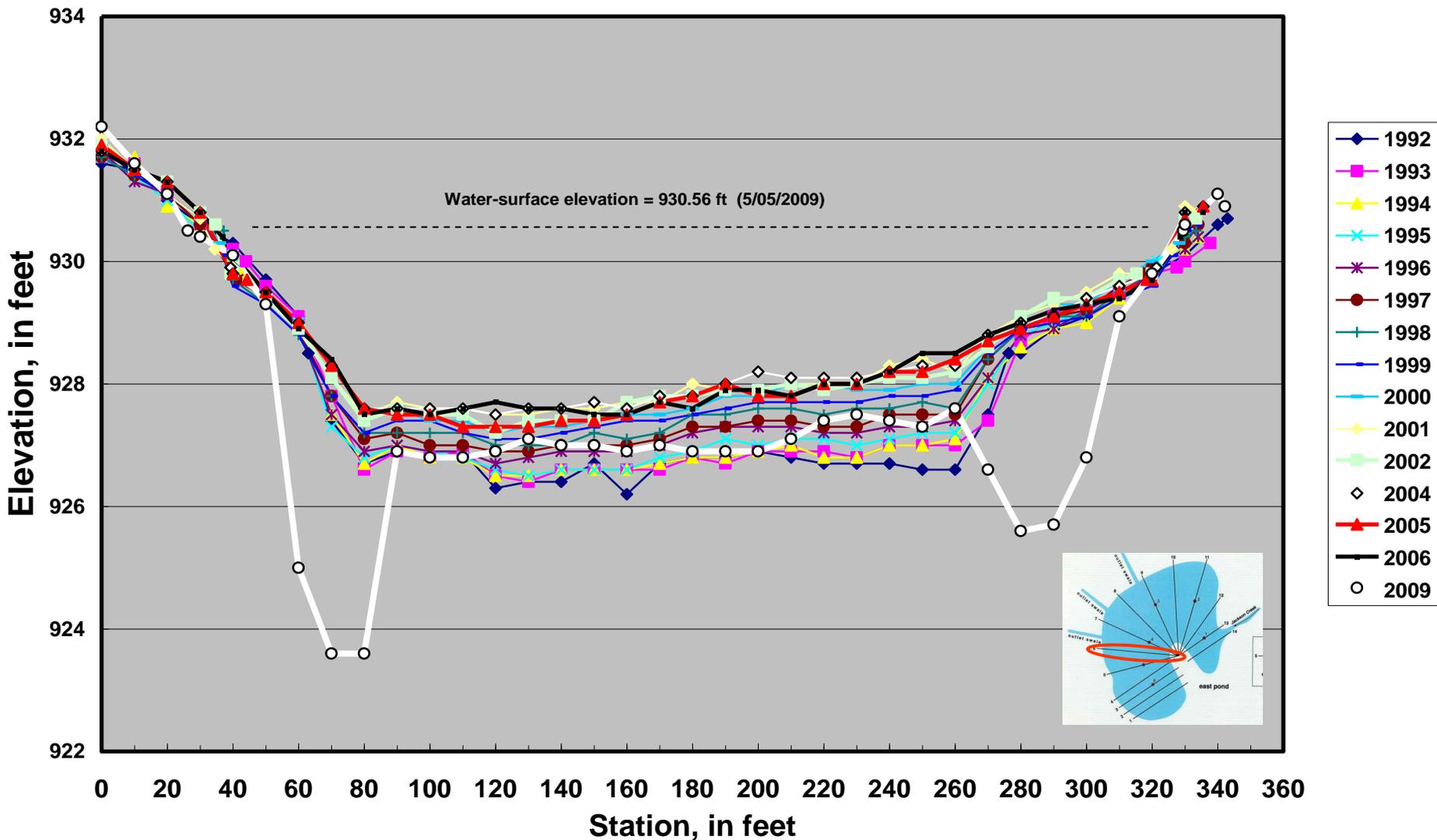


# East Pond Annual Change in Mean Depth



\*\* Note Work in the Wetlands is being used.

## East Pond, Cross Section Number 6

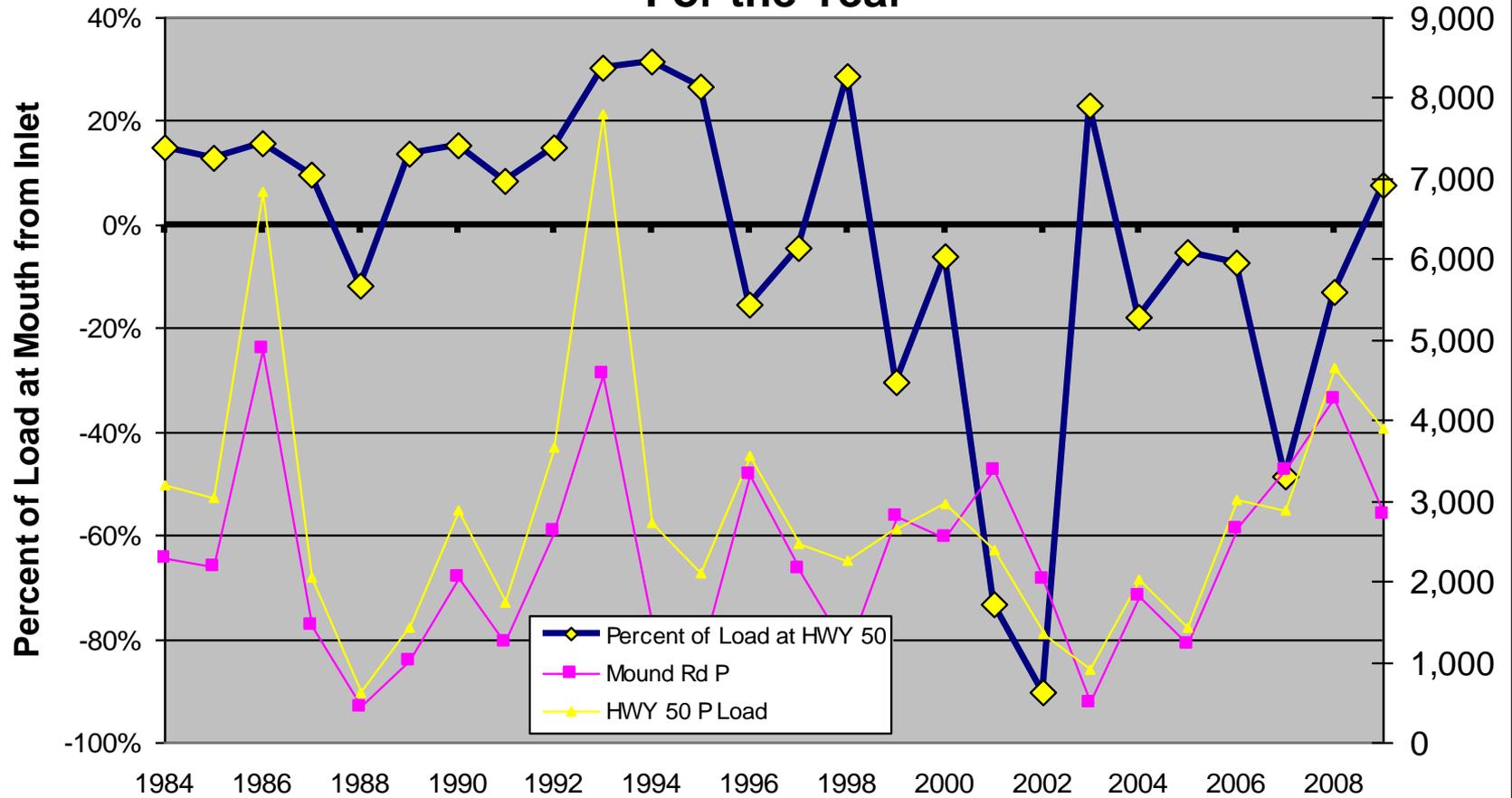


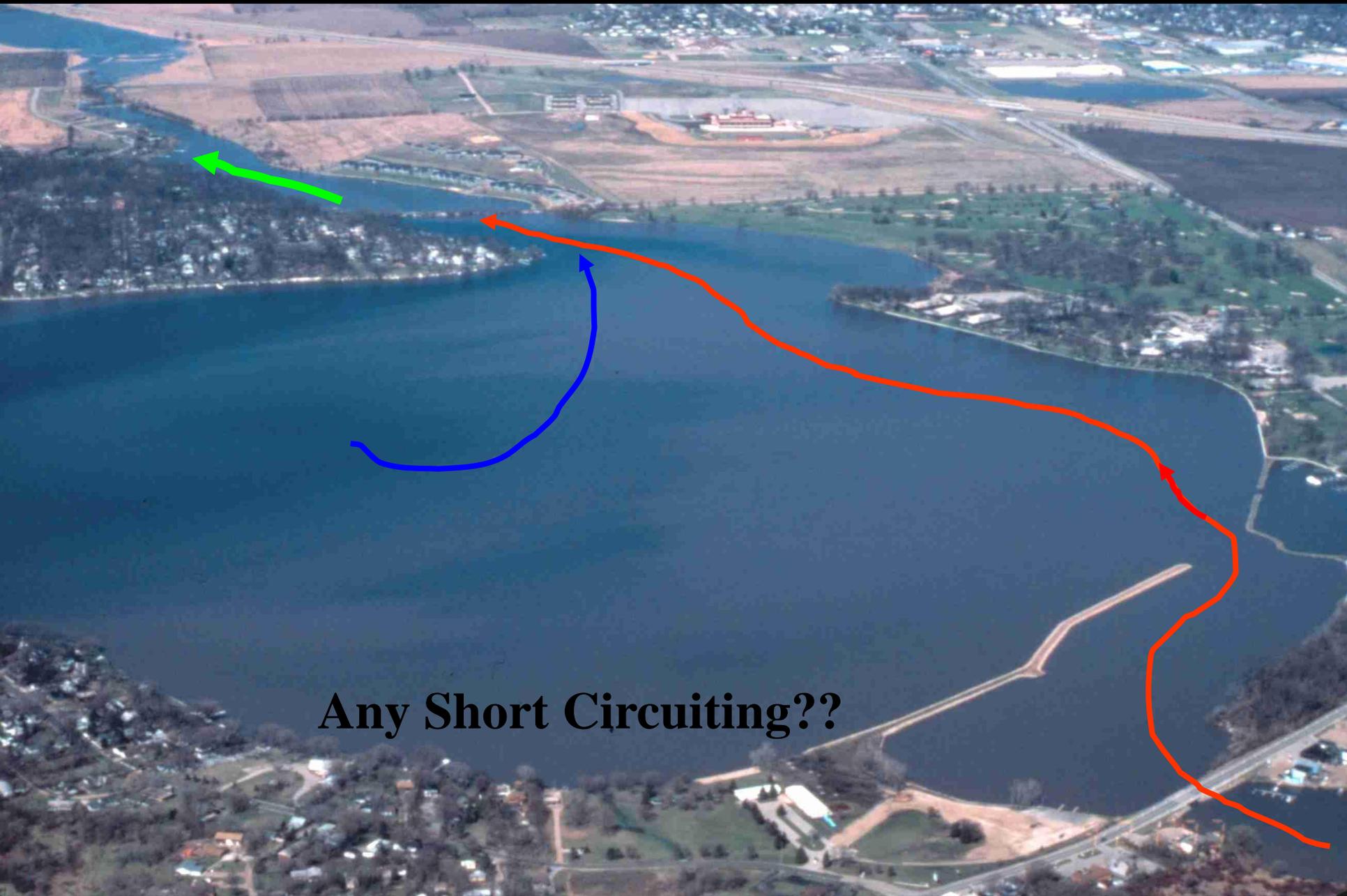
**To extend the life of the Wetlands – Dredging was conducted in 2009**



**How has the Inlet been affecting the Phosphorus loading to the lake in recent years??**

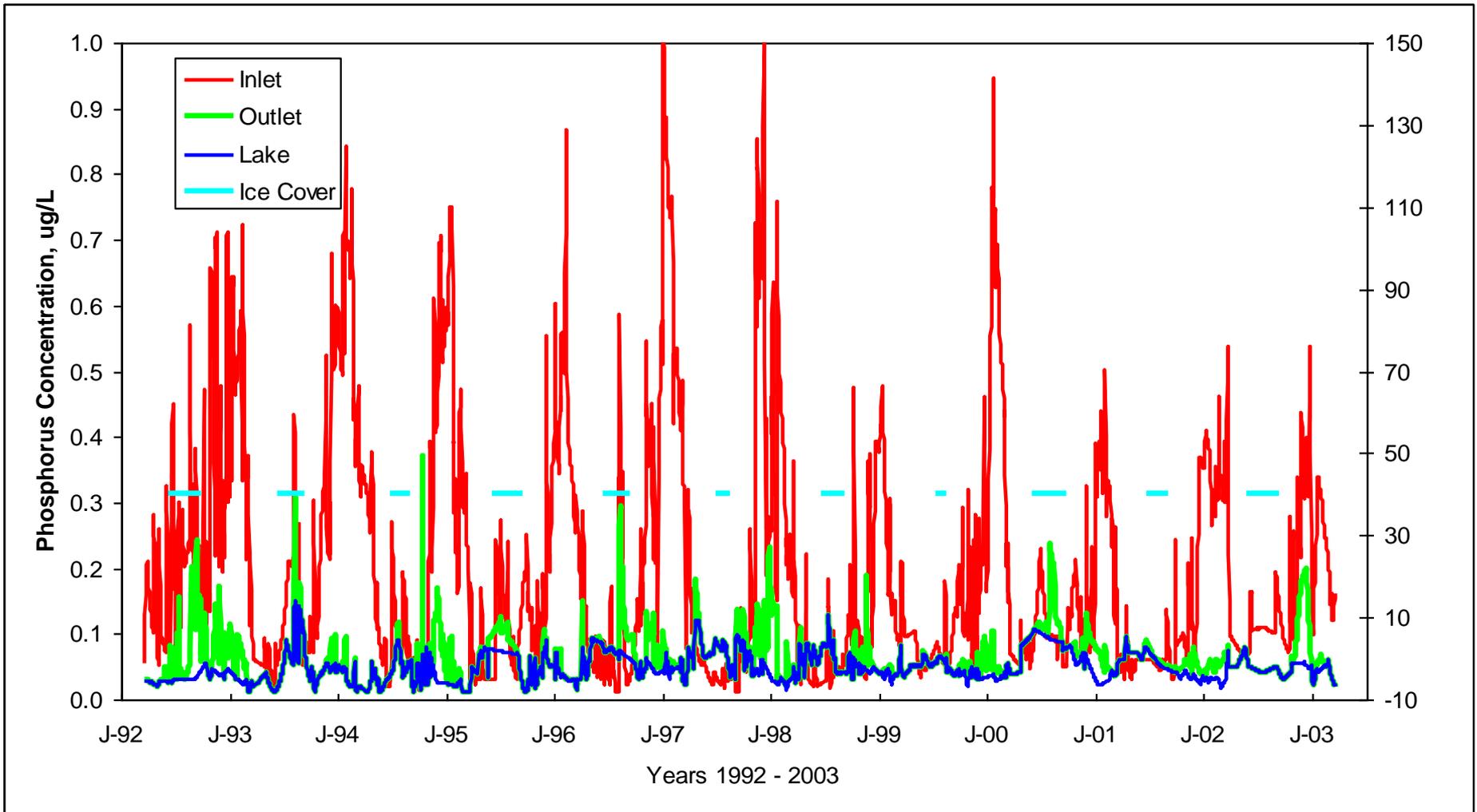
## Importance of Loading from Inlet to P Load at HWY50 For the Year





**Any Short Circuiting??**

# Short-Circuiting



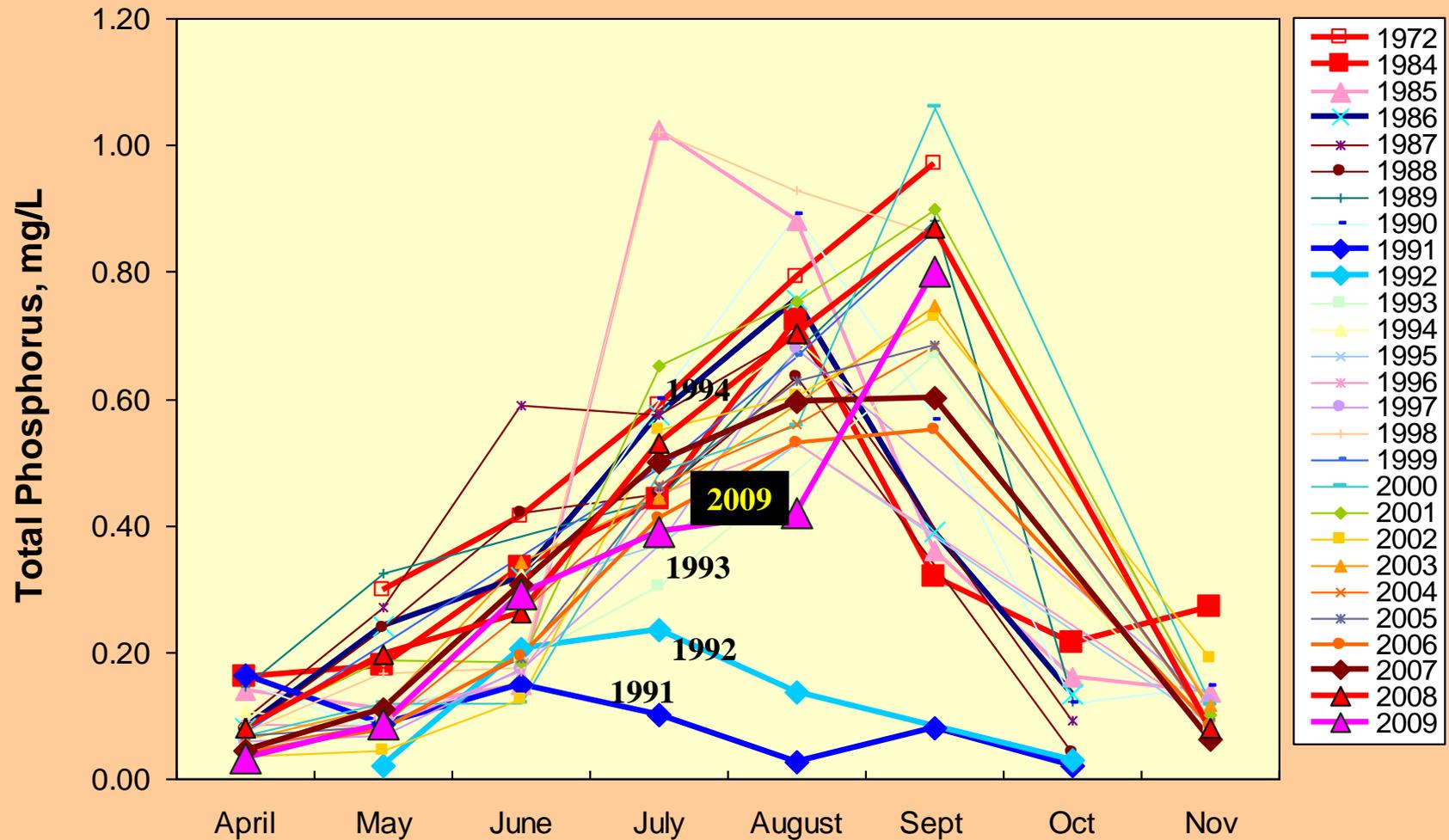


Internal Sources

Chemical Application of Alum

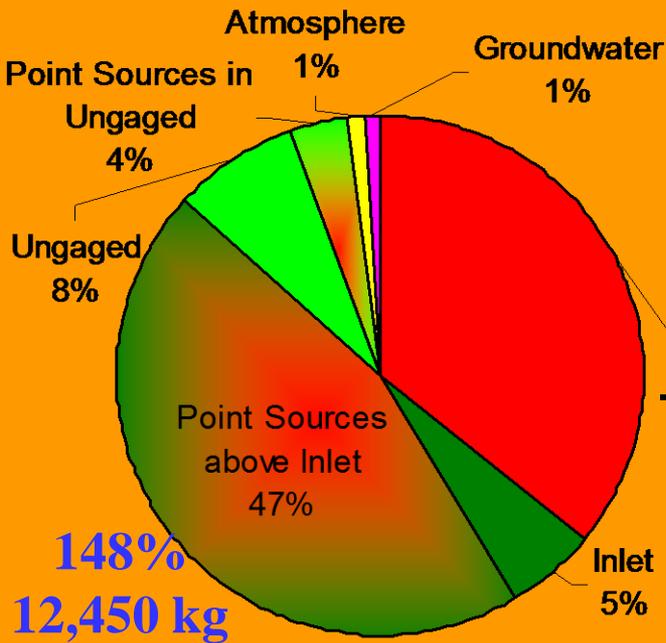
# Internal Loading

## Bottom Total Phosphorus Concentrations

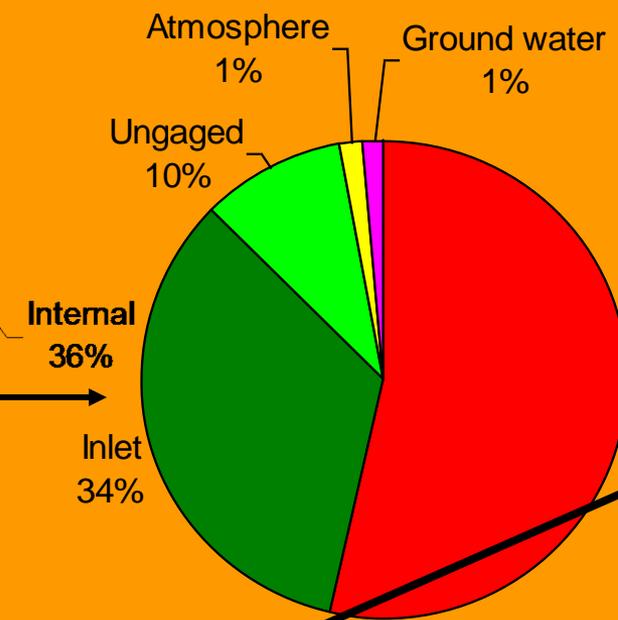


# Phosphorus Budgets For Delavan Lake

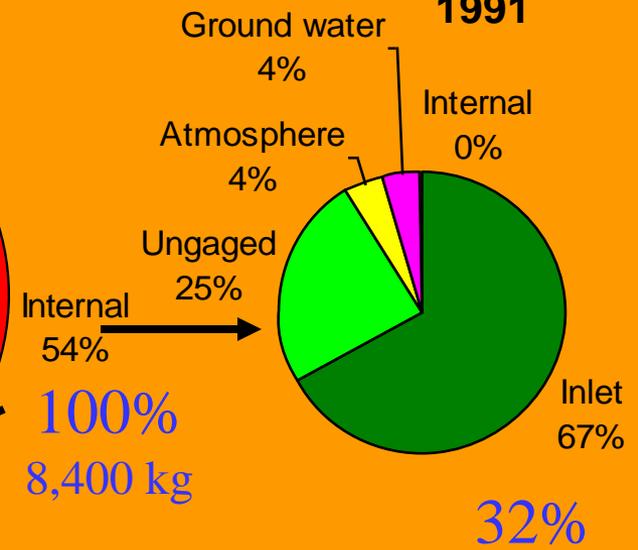
1972



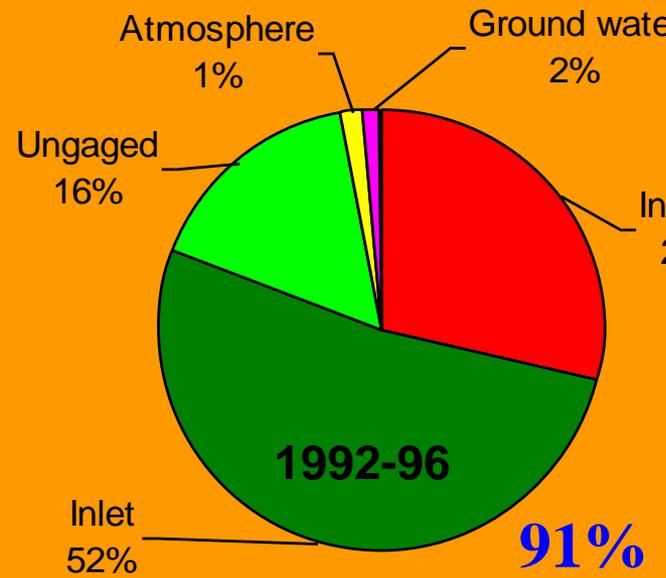
1984-89



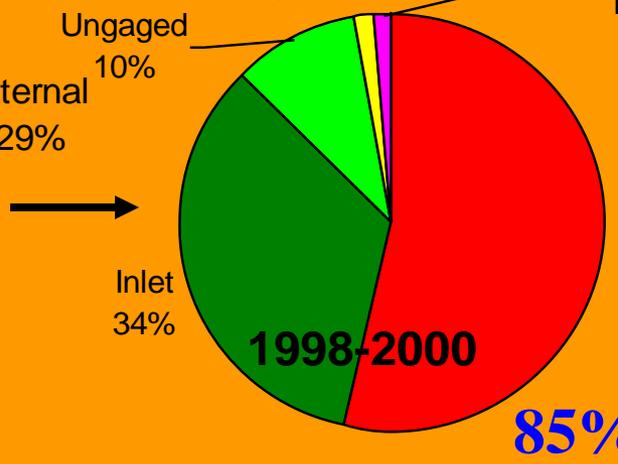
1991



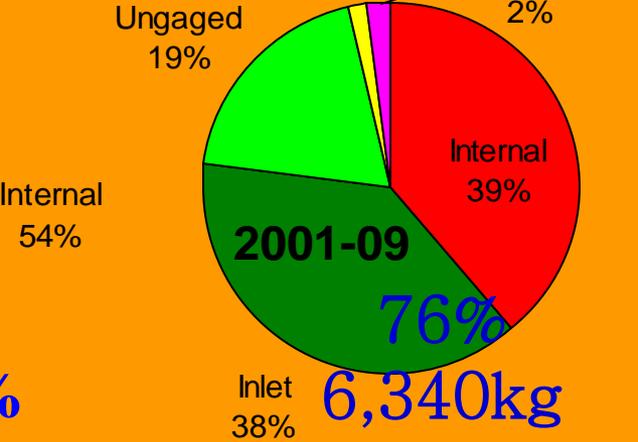
1992-96



1998-2000

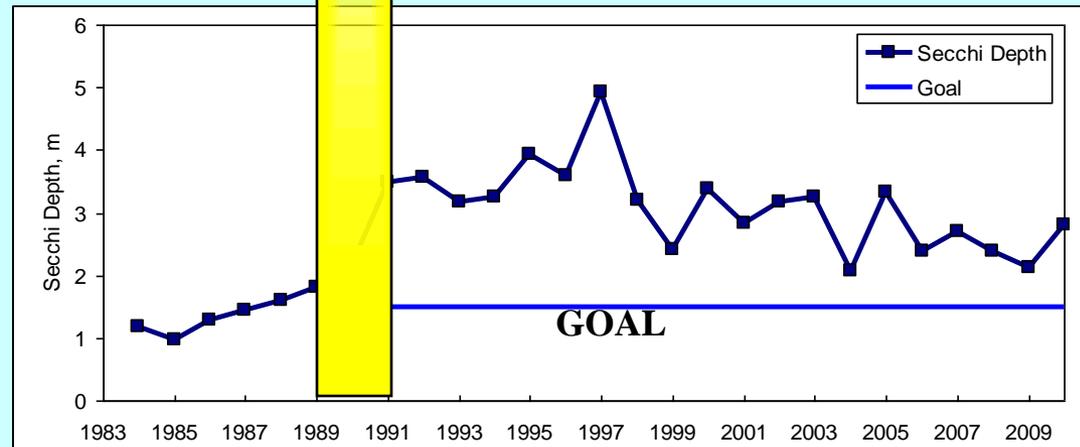
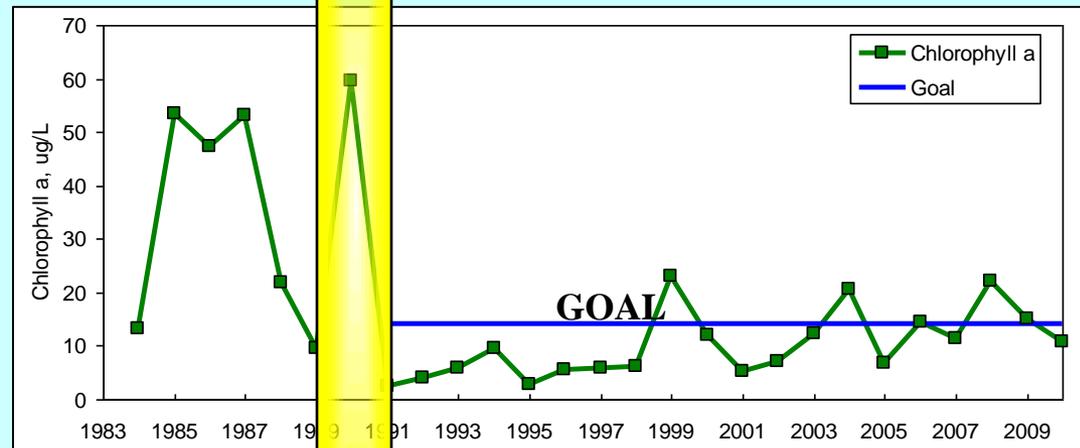
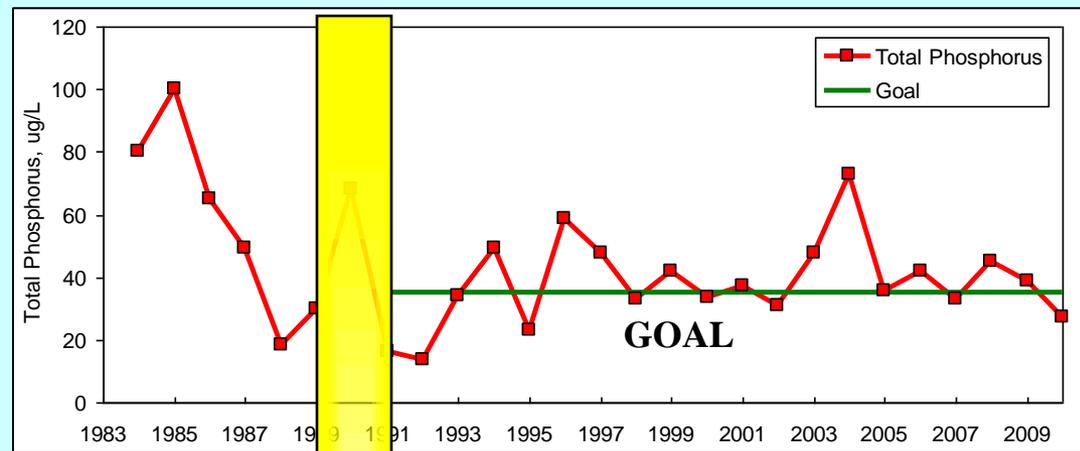


2001-09

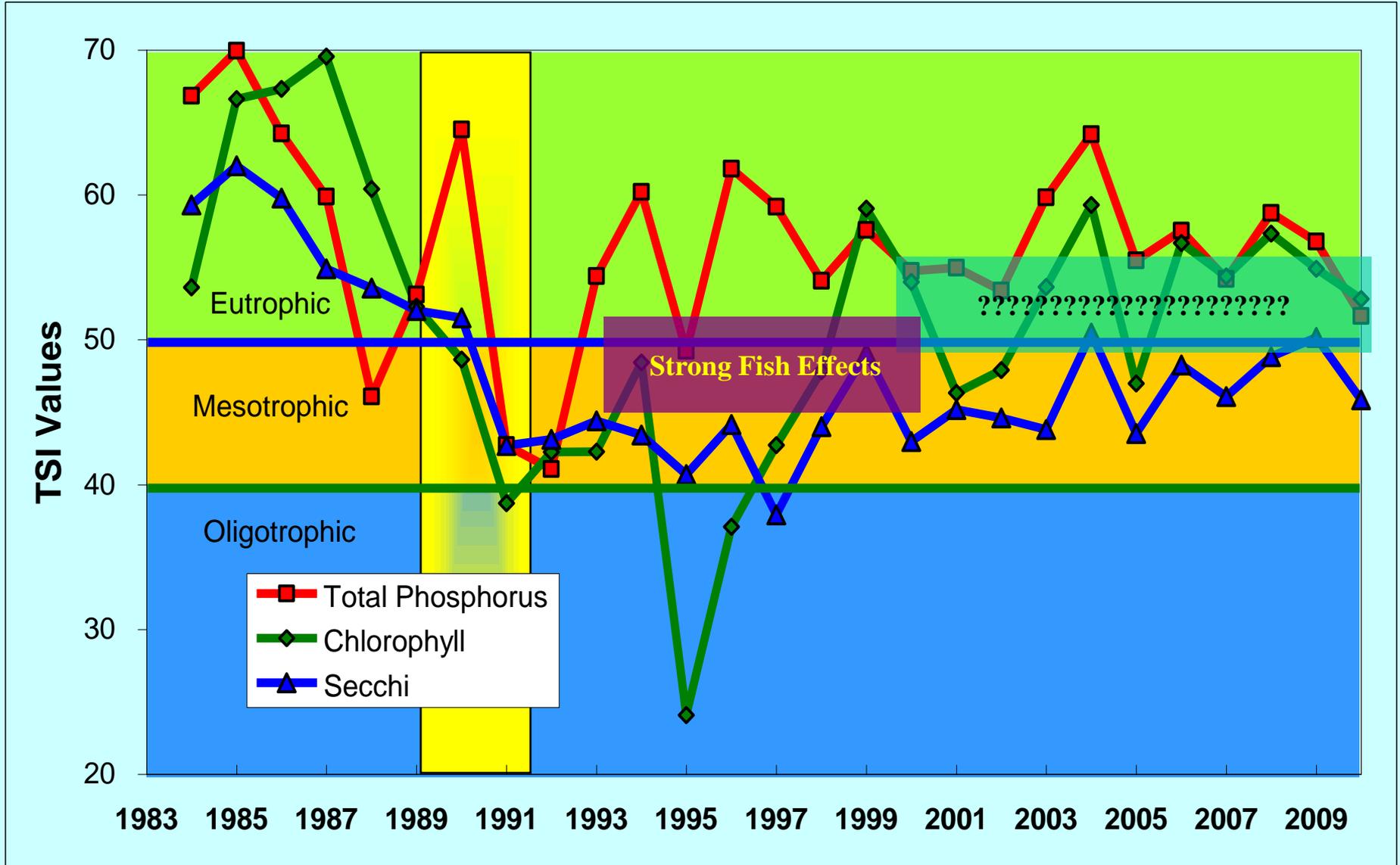


# In-lake Water Quality

## Summer Average June - August

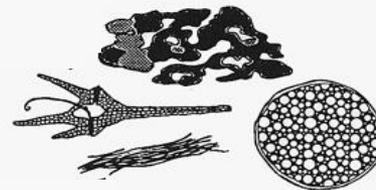
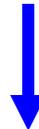
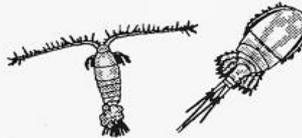
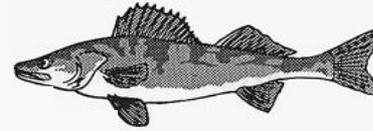
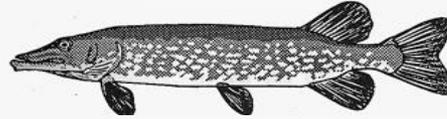
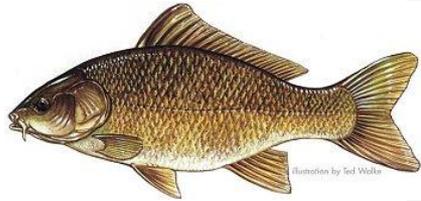


# Trophic State of Delavan Lake



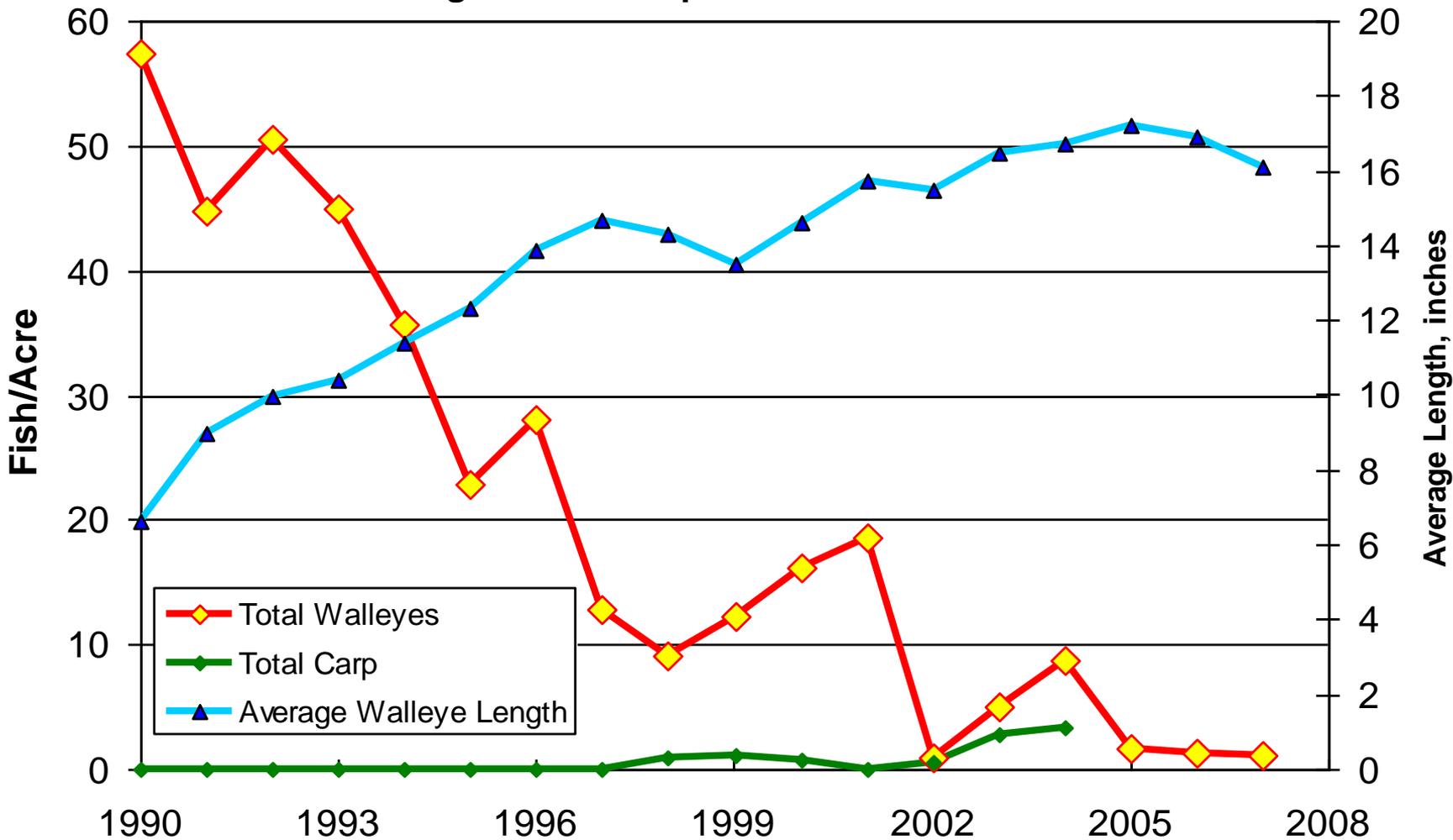
# Manipulated

# Post-Manipulated



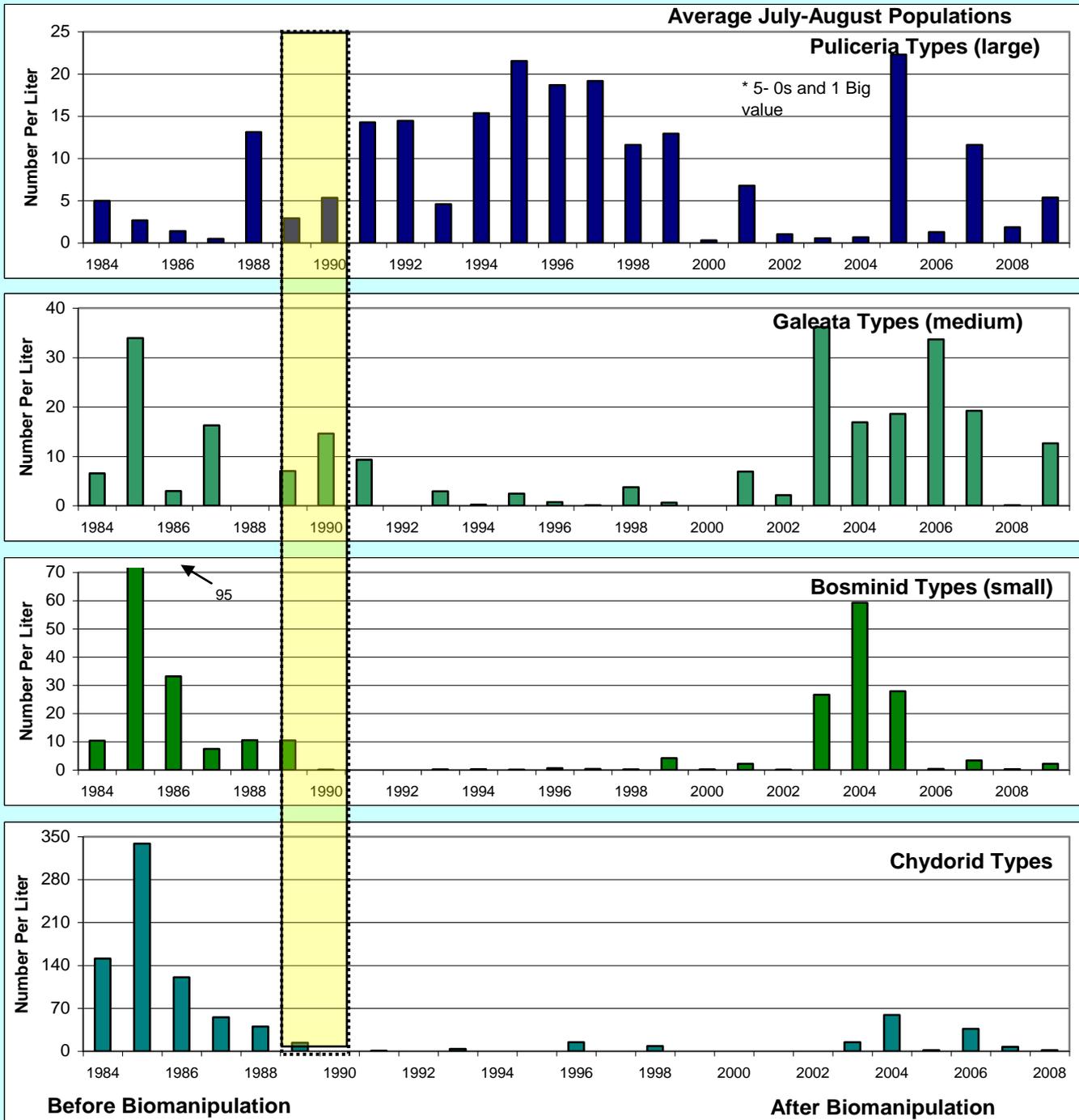
NUTRIENTS

## Changes in Fish Populations in Delavan Lake

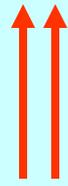
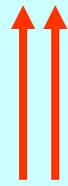
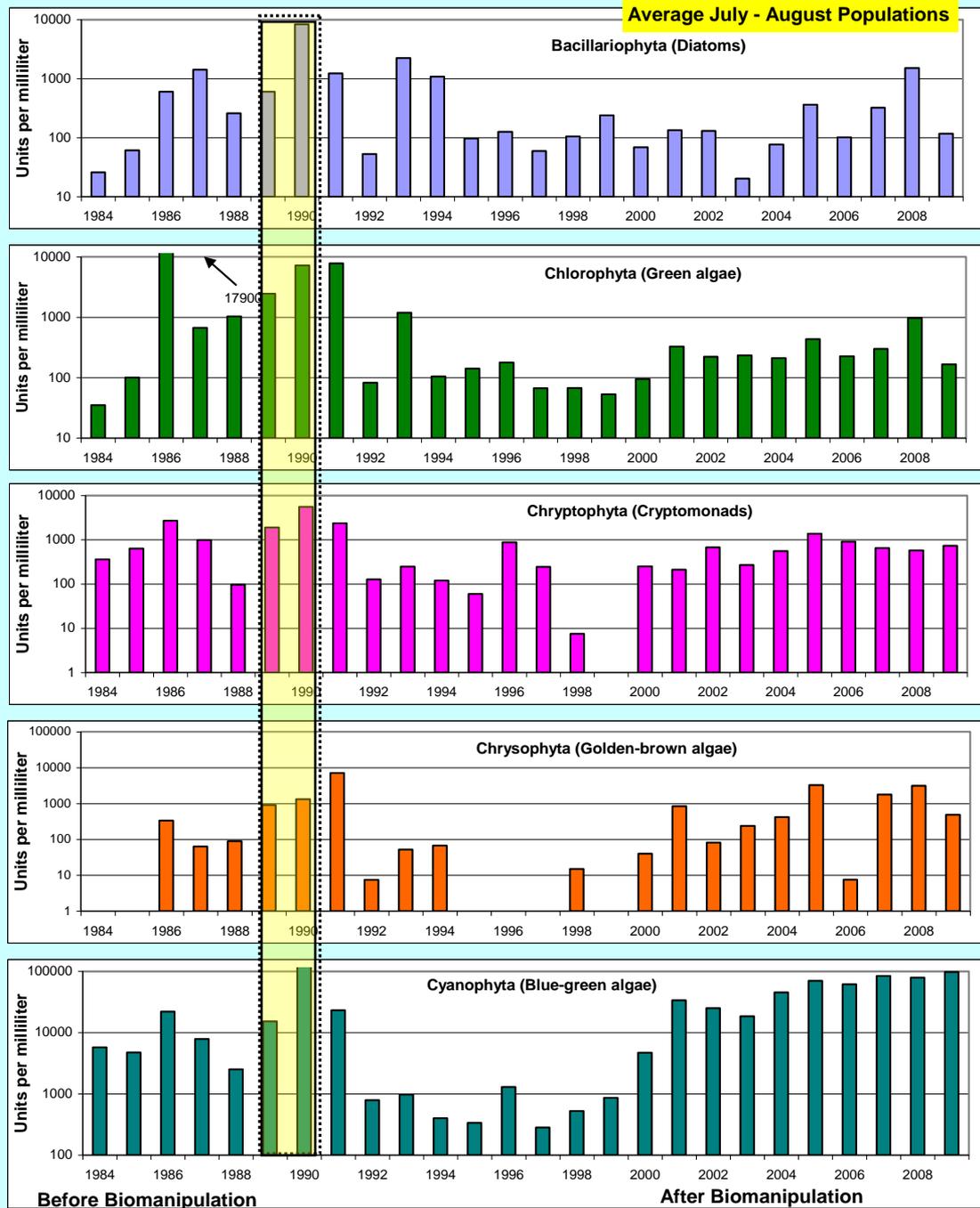


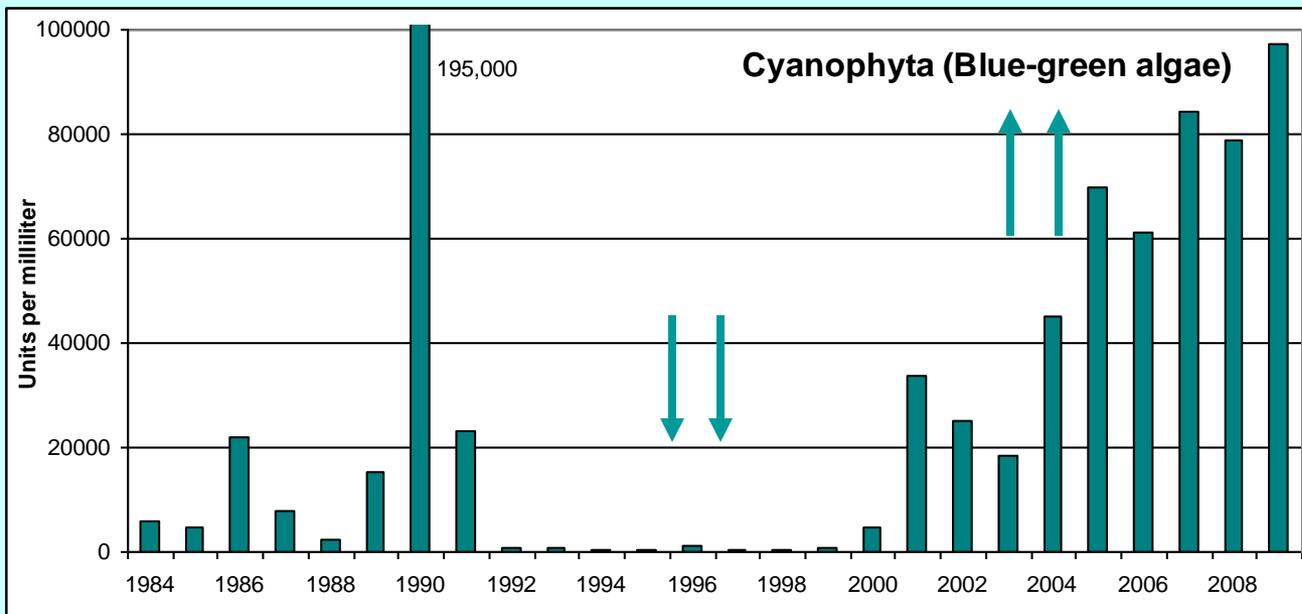
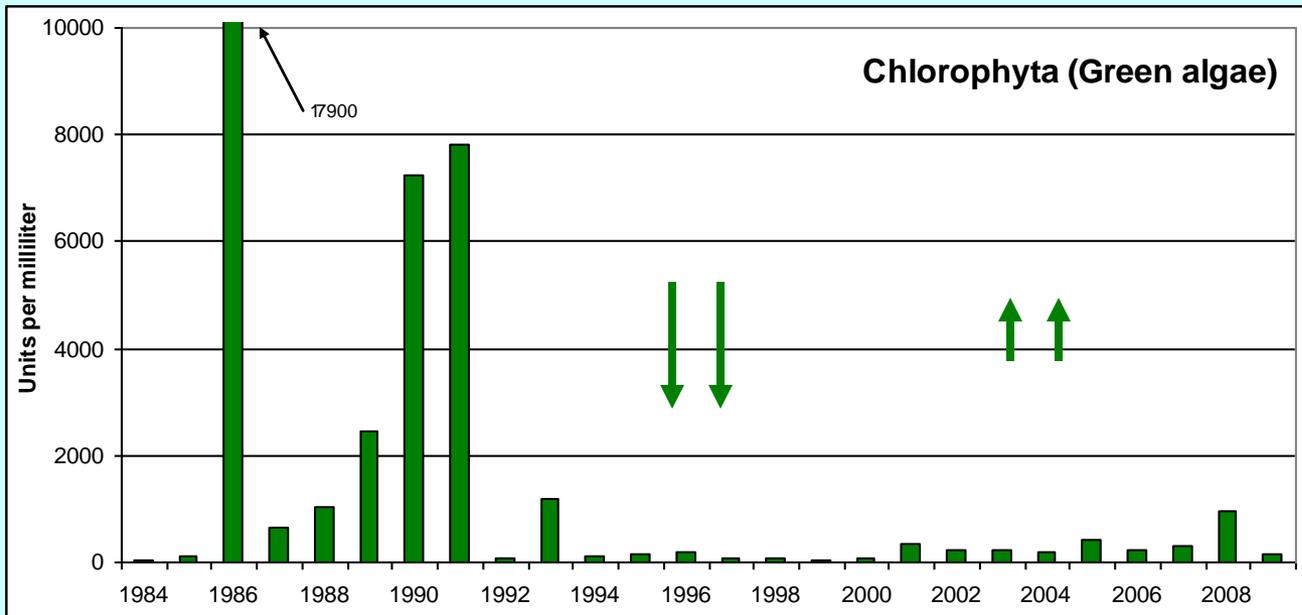


# Zooplankton Populations



# Phytoplankton Populations





# LAKE DELAVAN

## A FISHERY ON THE MOVE

### ■ *Geremachek Johnson*

A strange thing happened in April 1998, when workers removed walleyes from Lake Delavan. What's going on? Is Lake Delavan's well-publicized late-1980s restoration project still working?

Yes, according to biologists, who are just fine-tuning the lake's management. And although fishing has slowed somewhat since the glory days immediately after the rehabilitation project, Delavan still provides excellent action on walleyes, bass, panfish, northern pike and even some muskies.

### **New Age, New Strategies**

In one of Wisconsin's largest, most expensive lake rehabilitation projects, Lake Delavan was drawn down and treated in the late 1980s. Fishing was closed for two years. When the lake reopened, anglers found numerous species willing to bite.

In those days, fishing was sensational, which isn't unusual with newly restored lakes. Bluegill anglers caught buckets of big fish, walleye anglers had great catch-and-release action, and fishermen caught nice northerners, legal bass and even muskies. The lake gained a reputation as a sure bet. Almost any lure would work.

Fishing on Delavan has slowed since then, but biologists believe the lake is still on the right track.

A Fall 1998 survey revealed one surprise, though. Carp, which hadn't been seen since the restoration project, have returned to Delavan. Twelve carp between 14 and 20 inches were caught during the survey, although biologists had installed fish barriers to prevent this. However, Doug

**FISHING HAS SLOWED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY ON THIS 2,000-ACRE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN LAKE. HOWEVER, DELAVAN STILL PROVIDES EXCELLENT ACTION ON WALLEYES, BASS, PANFISH, NORTHERN PIKE AND EVEN SOME MUSKIES.**

covers about 2,000 acres and has a maximum depth of about 50 feet. It's narrow, and has dropping northern and southern shorelines like Geneva.

Jackson Creek flows into the shallow northern end near the park and public boat launch at Highway 50. On the northern shoreline, the lake's outlet flows toward Turtle Creek in the city of Delavan. This shallow area holds several bays. The outlet forms a bay and channel. Also, Lake Lawn Resort has a harbor on the lake's northeastern end, and a rock-bordered peninsula shapes a huge channel at the boat launch.

Delavan's far southwestern end has two shallow bays and some

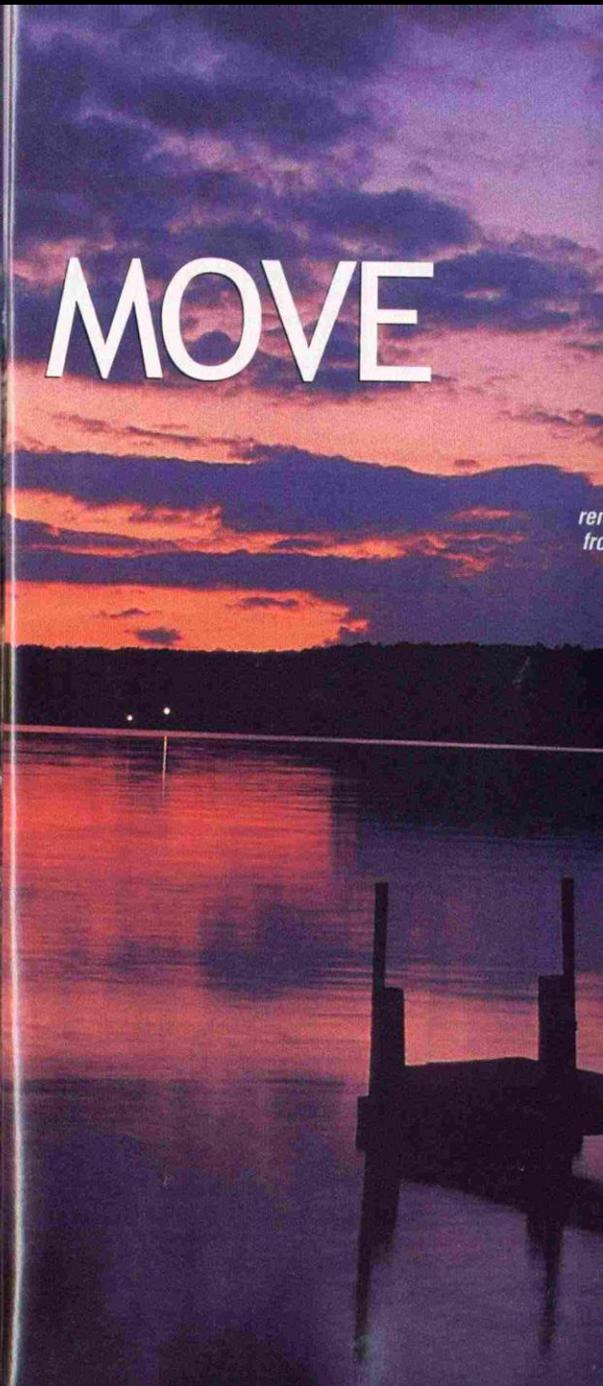
channels. The bays are separated by a peninsula called The Island. Another inlet, called Brown's Channel or Brown's Market, lies just north of The Island.

The lake also features several points. Cedar Point, or Yacht Club Point, juts out from the northern shoreline and creates the narrowest part of the lake. Willow Point sticks out from the lake's southwestern end, and an unnamed point juts out from South Shore Drive.

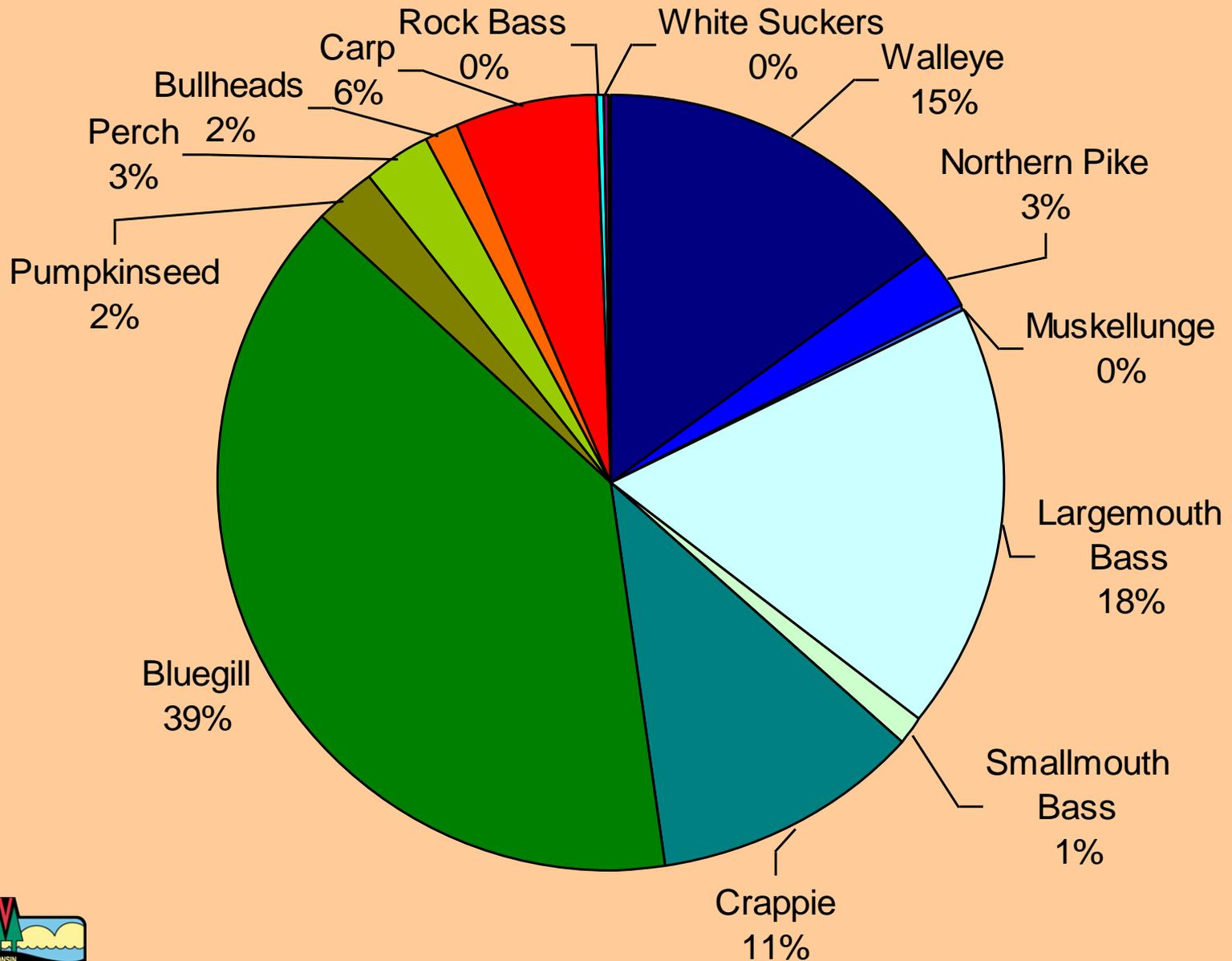
### **Walleyes Abound**

In April 1998, biologists removed about 5,500 walleyes from Delavan and stocked them in other area lakes. They might remove more fish to further reduce Delavan's walleye population.

Why? A Fall 1998 survey indicated Delavan held too many walleyes. The survey catch rate was 72 fish per hour. Walleyes ranged from 5.9 to 19.9 inches, and the



# FISH DISTRIBUTION, 2004



# Badger State

# Crappie

# Hotspots

Do you have an itchin' for some open-water fishin'?  
The crappies in these waters can fill your needs.

by Dan Small

Wisconsin anglers itching for some open-water action would do well to plan an outing or two for crappies this spring. Hundreds of lakes throughout the Badger State offer good fishing for crappies, which in many cases are the most abundant panfish available. Abundant does not always mean easy to catch, however. These speckled panfish can be downright closed-mouthed at times, refusing even the most delicious morsel presented oh-so delicately on light tackle. At other times, they will bite anything you throw at them and do it so fast that you have a hard time keeping a line in the water.

Both black and white crappies inhabit Wisconsin waters. Black crappies have dark specks scattered all over a white body in uneven rows that thin out from the top of the fish to the bottom. White crappies look paler and bleached out by comparison, with distinct dark vertical bars over a creamy background. They frequent the same habitat and can be caught by the same methods. Most anglers can't tell them apart.

In winter, crappies often suspend at middepth in the water column, either in the middle of a lake or adjacent to a steep dropoff or other deep struc-

ture. In spring, as spawning time approaches, they gradually move shallower until they are in a few feet of water in reeds, over a marl or hardpan bottom, or along rock riprap.

Crappie populations are cyclical on most lakes, with a couple boom years followed by three or four bust years before their numbers rebuild. The lakes detailed here are waters where crappie numbers are currently high, or where consistent natural reproduction sustains them at high levels for years at a time. In other words, these are some of the very best crappie hotspots in the Badger State.

## DELANAN LAKE

Delavan Lake is one of our state's great fish-management success stories. In 1989, this 2,072-acre Walworth County lake was drawn down, poisoned to remove carp, then refilled and stocked with a variety of game fish and panfish. The result has been a tremendous fishery that has stayed strong for well over a decade, according to Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Doug Welch.

Crappies are abundant here, and there are several strong year-classes currently available. In winter, they suspend over deep water. When the ice goes out, you'll still find them

suspended, where jigging spoons will take them.

When the water begins to warm, look for papermouths on shallow bars, along deep weed edges and around emergent bulrushes. Good spring spots include the mouth of Brown's Channel and near the public landing off Highway 50 on South Shore Drive, the best landing on the lake.

Anglers do well with small minnows and tiny jigs tipped with small plastic tails or Berkley Gulp baits. Scale down your offerings and your line diameter when crappies are shallow, because they often bite very lightly during this pre-spawn period.

For bait, tackle, guide service and fishing information, try Brian Gates at Geneva Lake Bait & Tackle in Williams Bay, (262) 245-6150.

## BEAVER DAM LAKE

Located in western Dodge County, this 6,500-acre lake is my favorite for spring crappies. There is little structure in this shallow, sprawling lake, so crappies roam the open water most of the year. In spring, though, they move onto the flats along the north shore where they will spawn in a month or so.

DNR fisheries biologist Laura Stremick-Thompson surveyed the crappies there last October. She found

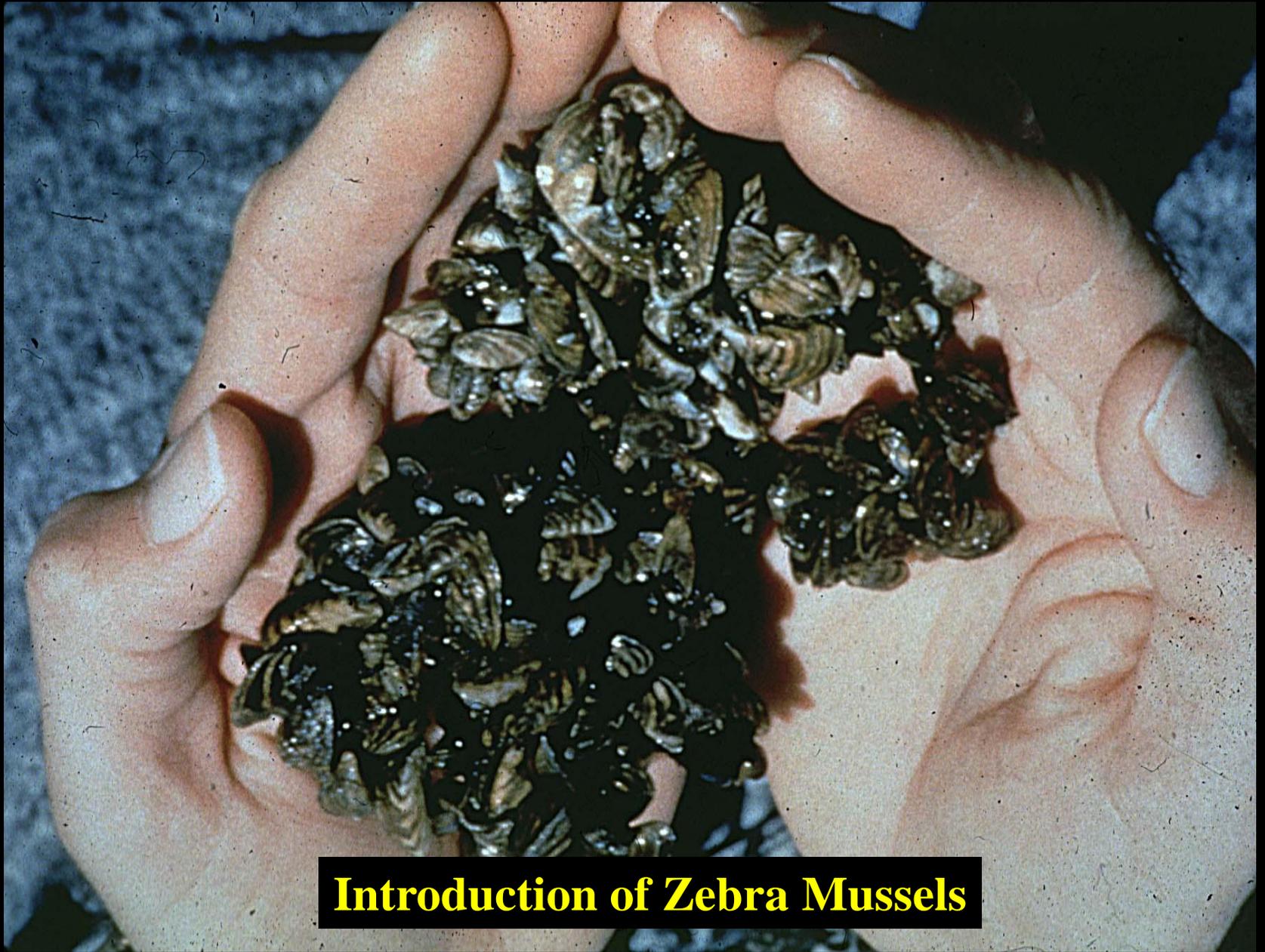


**Increased Macrophyte Production**



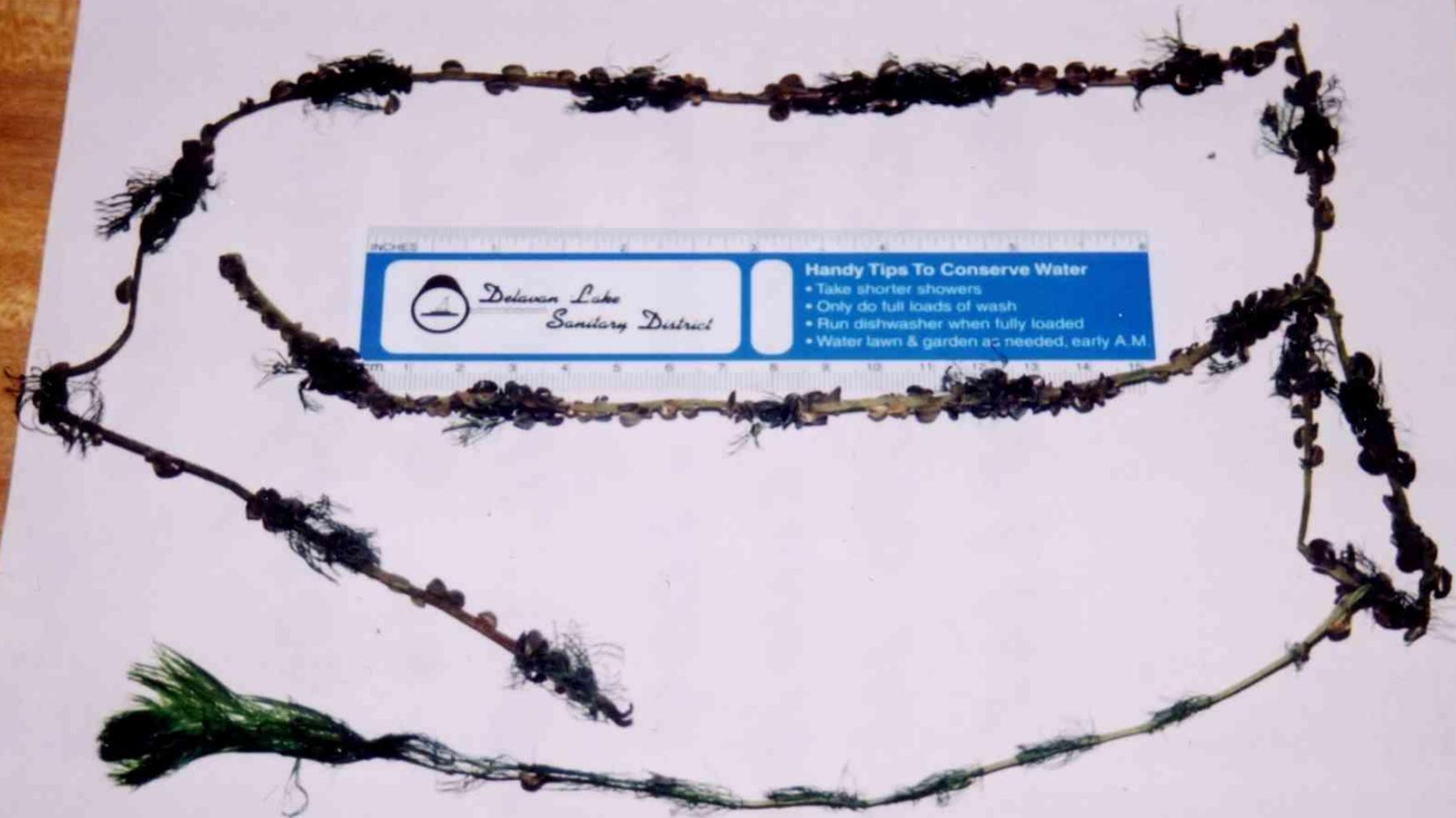
## **Filamentous Algae Growth**

- Growth high in all shallow regions without macrophytes**



**Introduction of Zebra Mussels**





INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

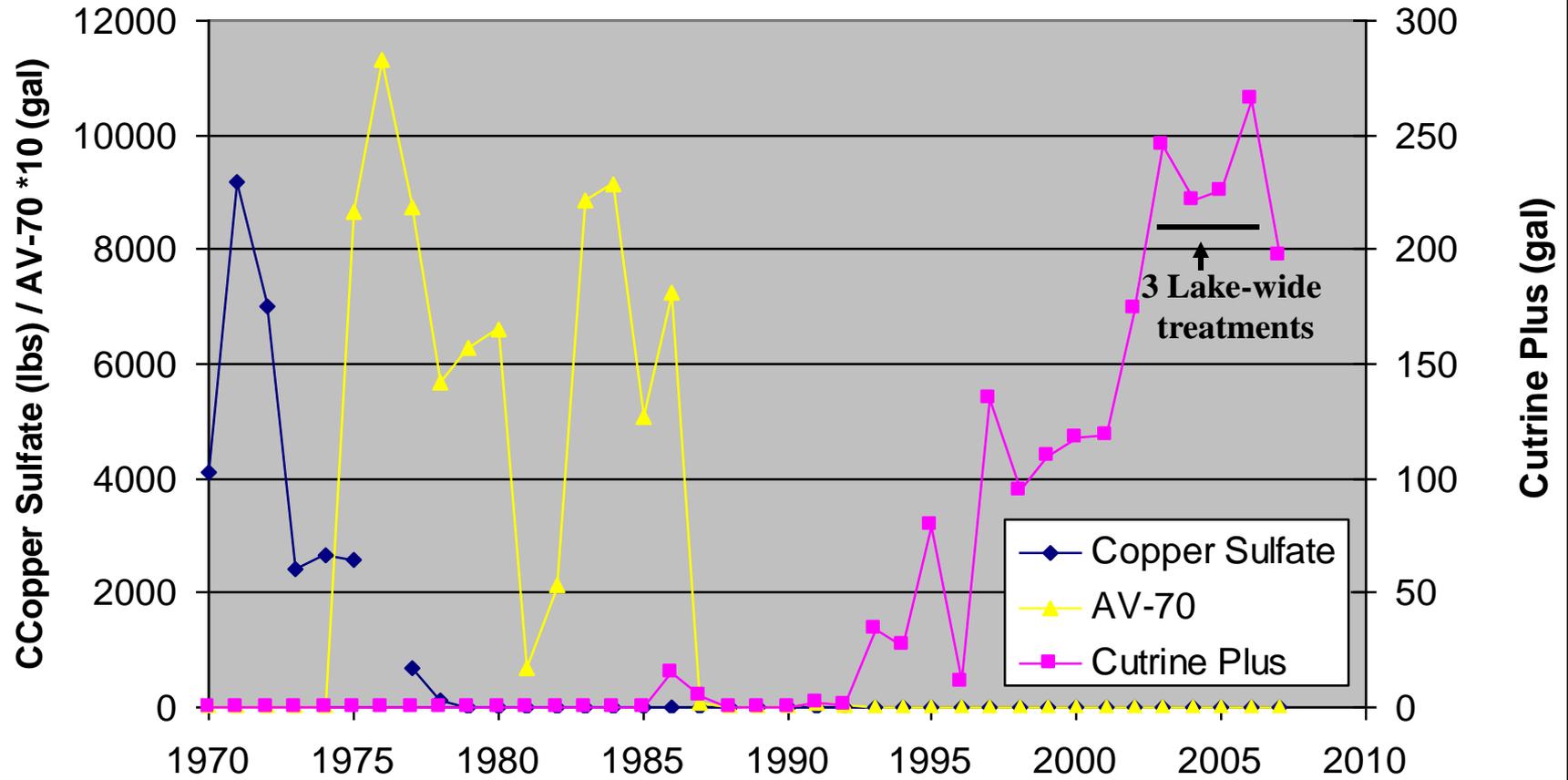
cm 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

 *Delaware Lake*  
*Sanitary District*

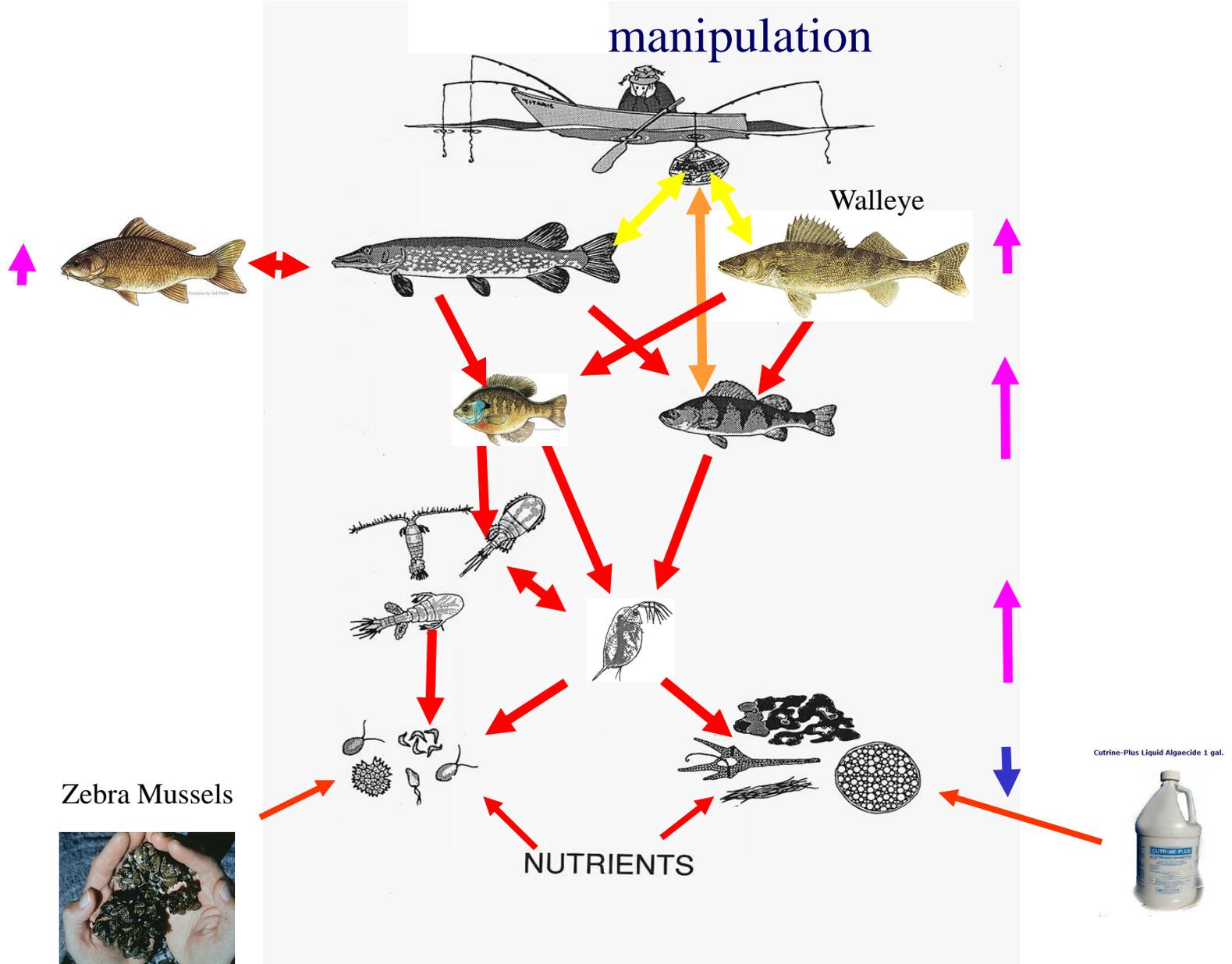
**Handy Tips To Conserve Water**

- Take shorter showers
- Only do full loads of wash
- Run dishwasher when fully loaded
- Water lawn & garden as needed, early A.M.

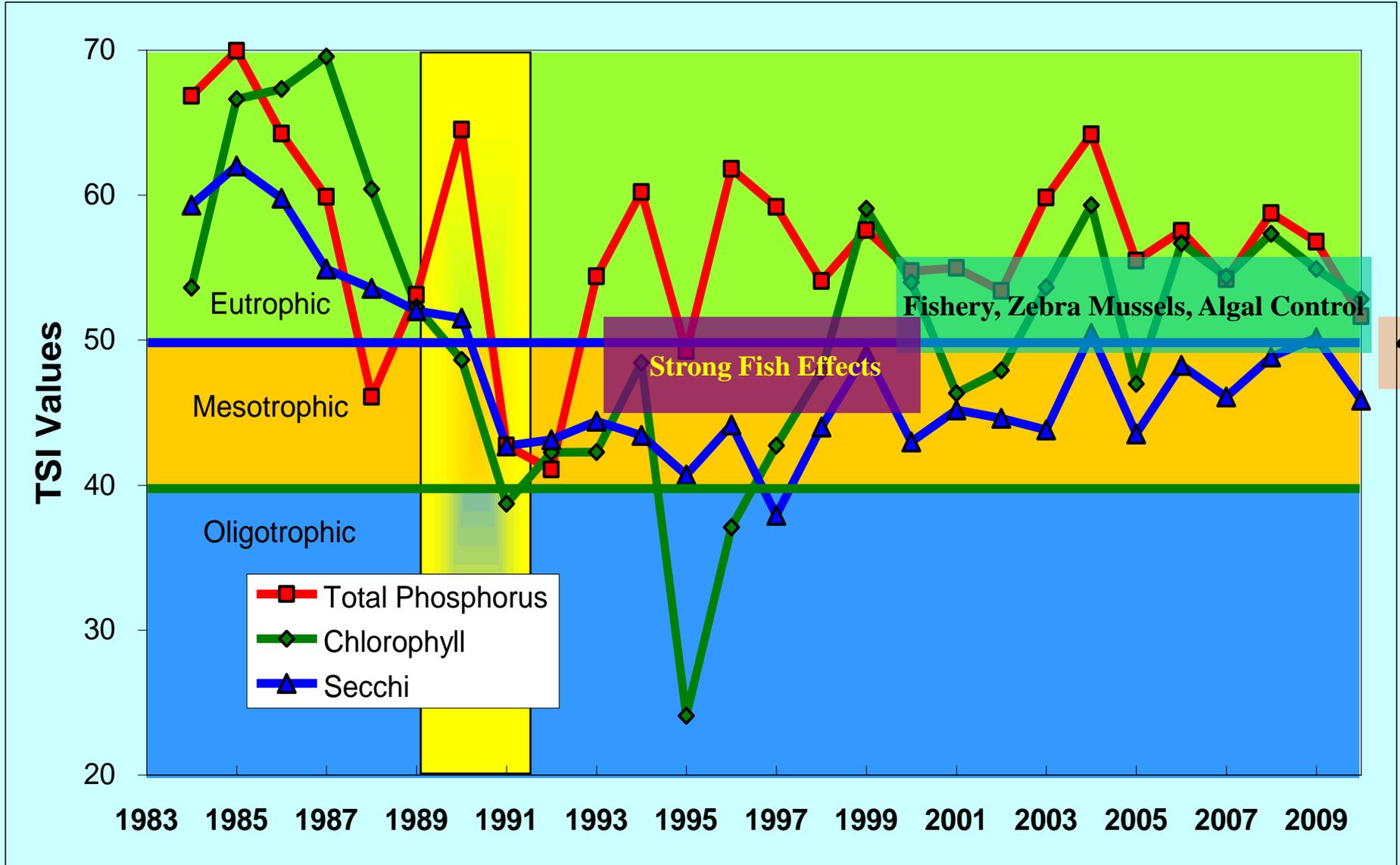
## Chemical Control of Algae (some Macrophytes)



# Biomanipulation in Delavan Lake



# Trophic State of Delavan Lake



# Conclusions

## Rehabilitation Program

- 1. Success depends on what part is examined.**
- 2. Water clarity and fish populations remain good but decreasing, especially late in the summer.**
- 3. Macrophyte and filamentous algae growth very high, now mid- and late-summer algal blooms.**
- 4. Walleye populations have declined and carp populations have increased but strong fishery and possibly the effects of zebra mussels maintain a weak trophic cascade.**
- 5. If you don't eliminate the source of the problem (phosphorus loading), any action will be a temporary fix.**

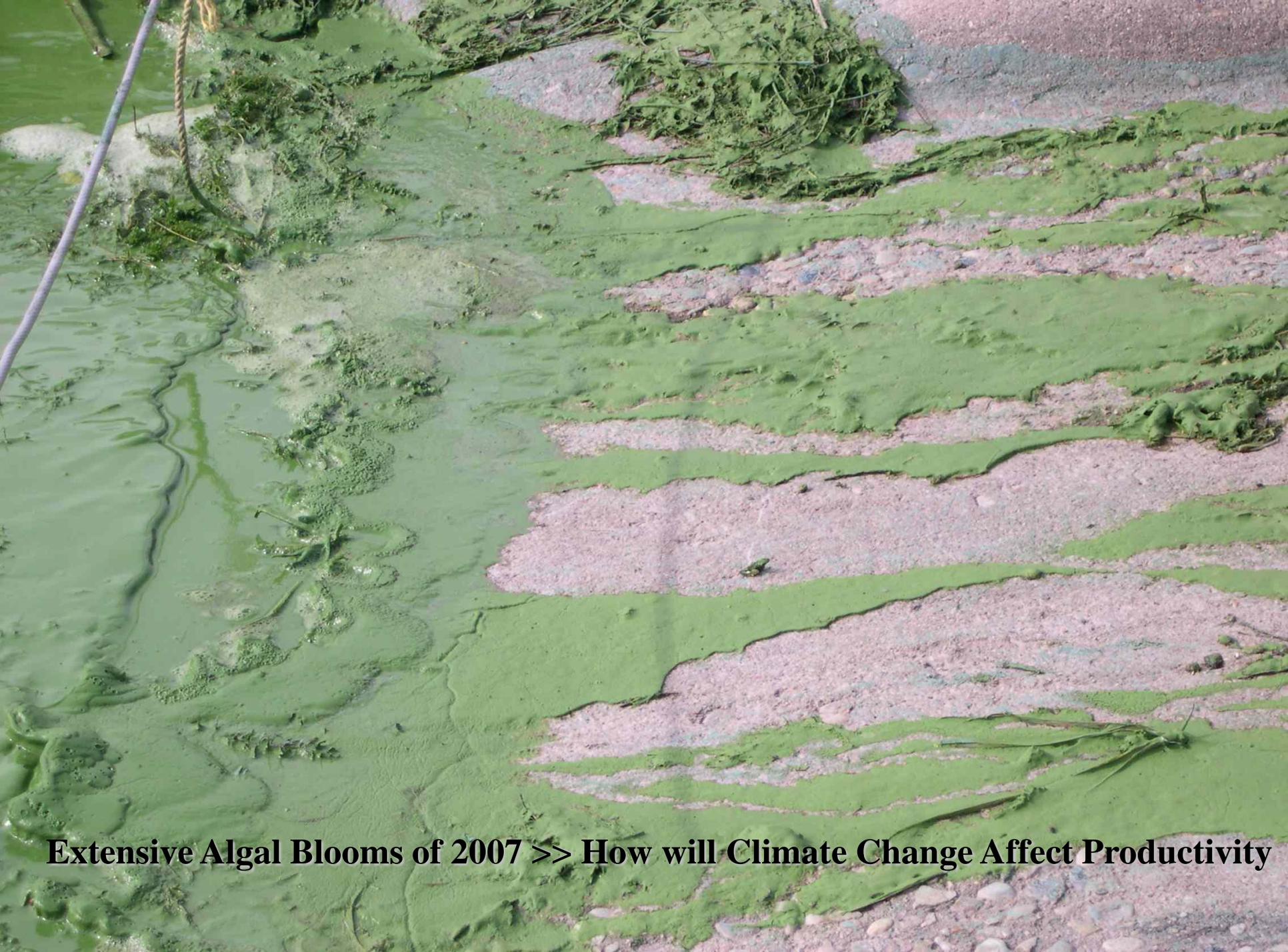


# Extensive Algal Blooms of 2007



Delavan Lake, Wisconsin





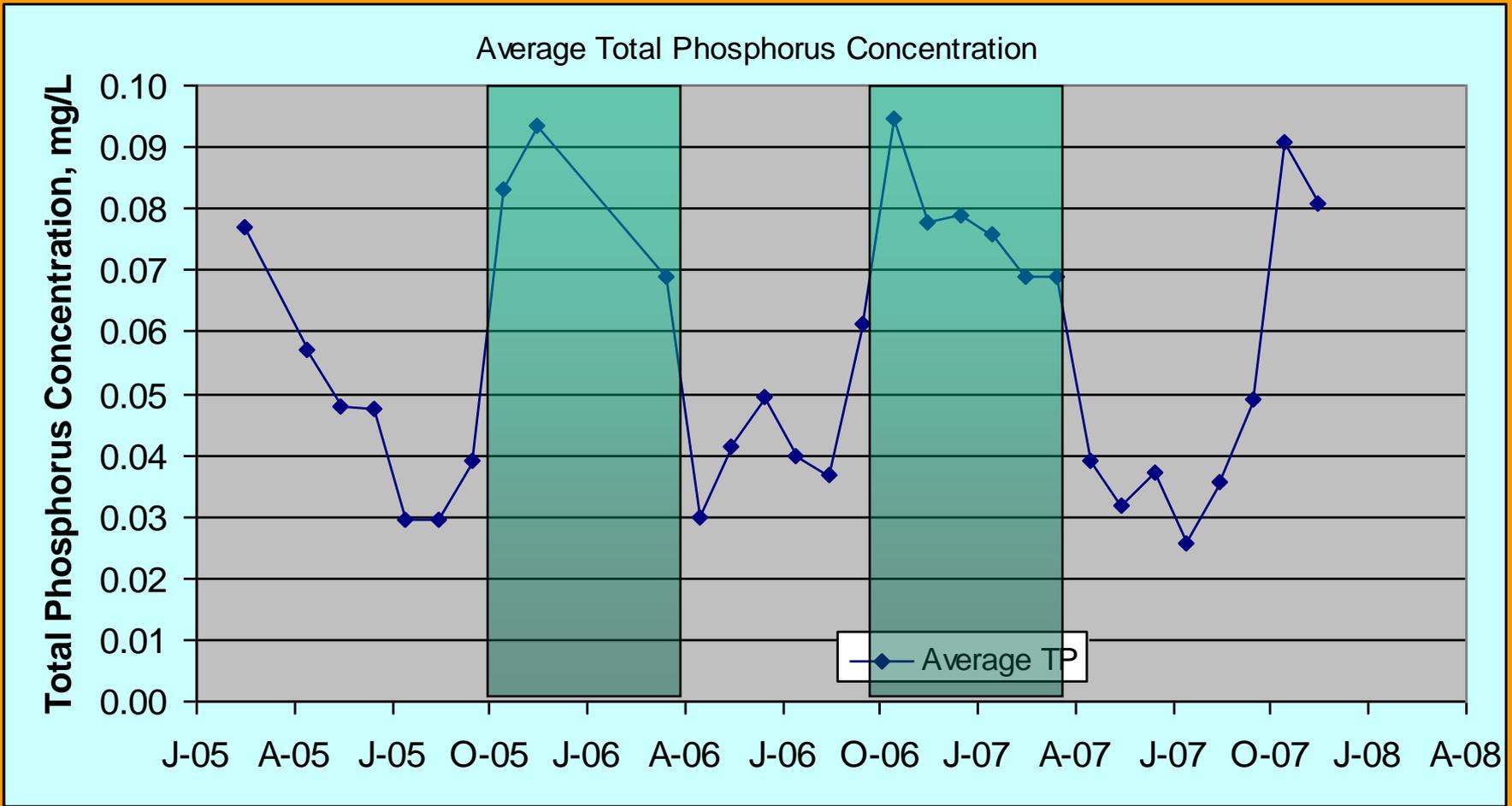
**Extensive Algal Blooms of 2007 >> How will Climate Change Affect Productivity**



**How will the Inlet and potential future development affect the Phosphorus loading to the lake??**

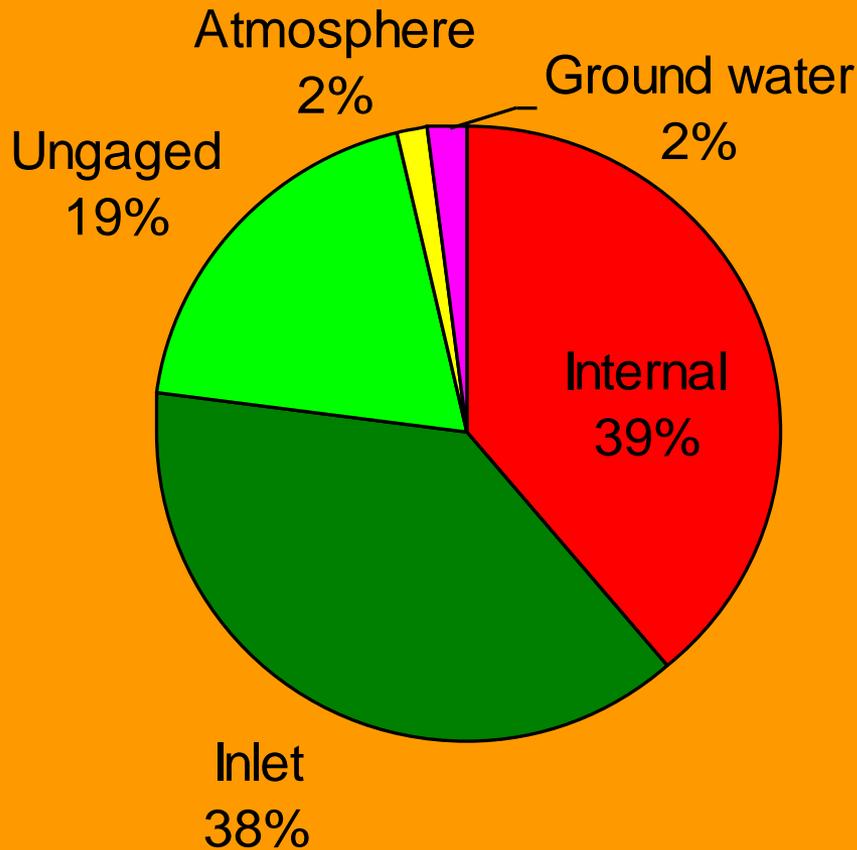
**What can be done to protect the lake??**





**Considering modifications to lake withdrawal patterns**

# Total Phosphorus Loading in 2001-09

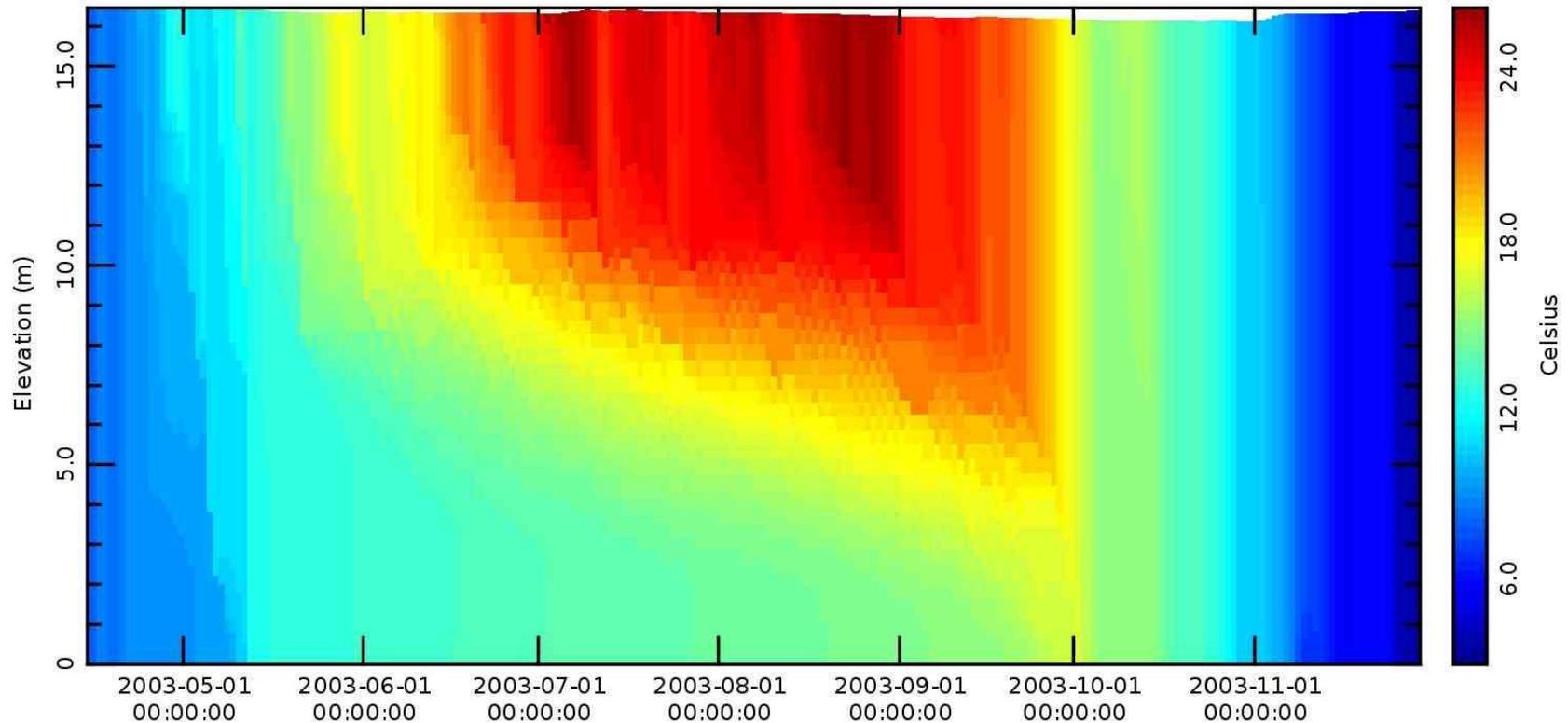


**Is another Alum Treatment the  
ANSWER?**

**~25% Reduction So Far**  
*Present Loading ~6,000 kg*

# Evaluation of the Importance of Internal Phosphorus Loading with DYRESM-CAEDYM

## Thermal Structure in Delavan Lake

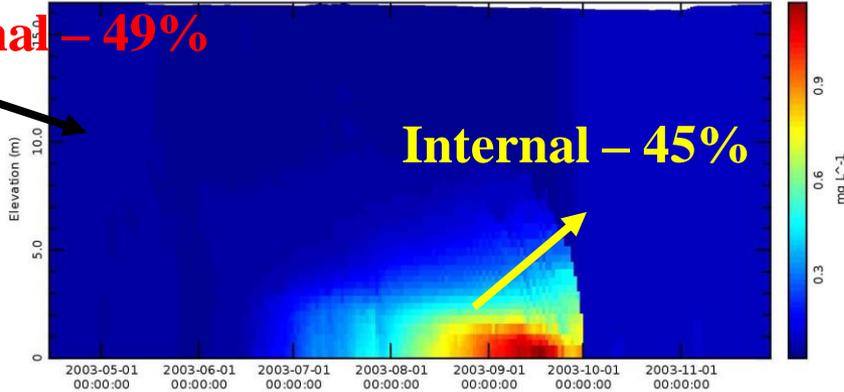


# Evaluation of the Importance of Internal Phosphorus Loading with DYRESM-CAEDYM

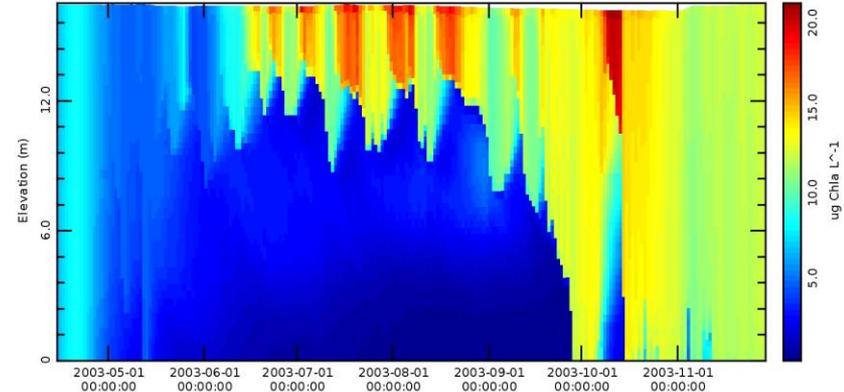
## Total Phosphorus Concentrations - NOW

**External - 49%**

**Internal - 45%**



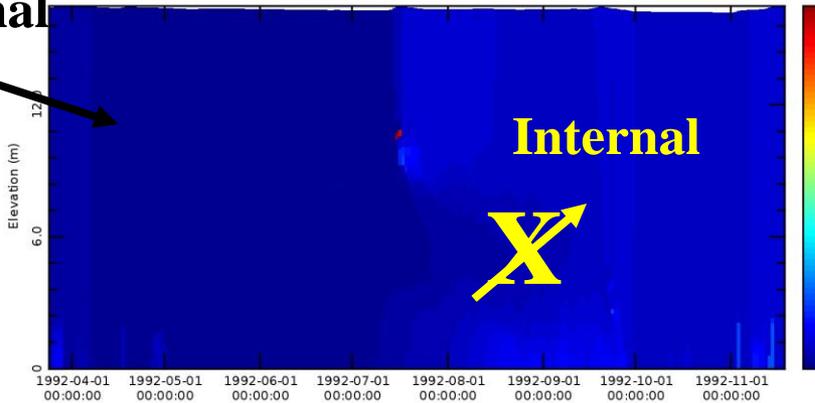
## Chlorophyll a (Algae)



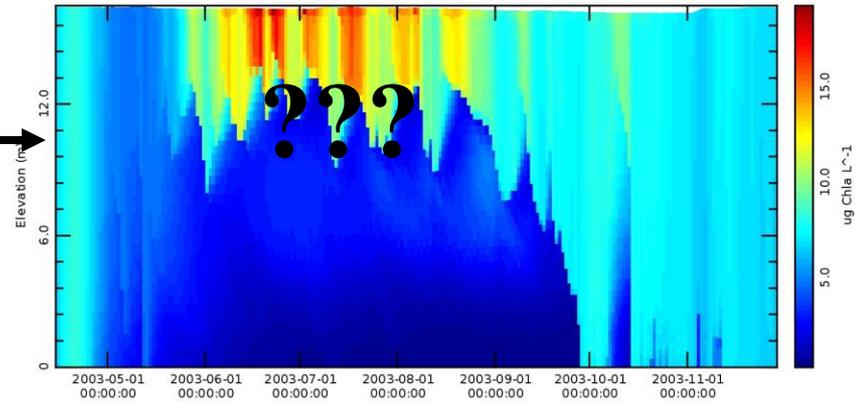
## Total Phosphorus Concentrations - With Alum

**External**

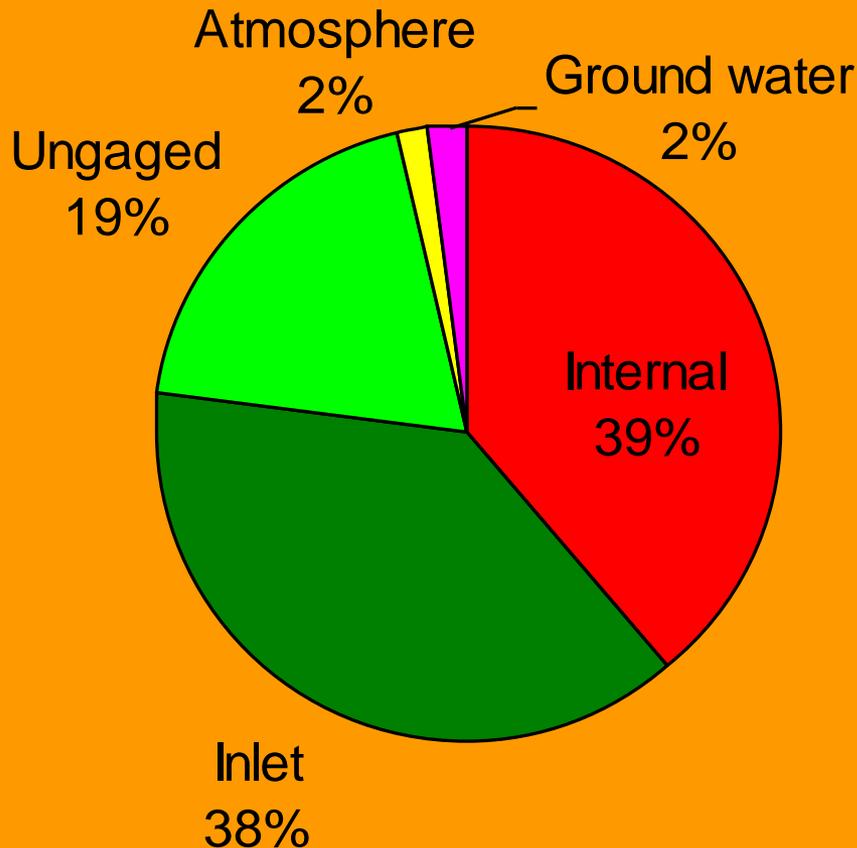
**Internal**



## Chlorophyll (Algae)



# Total Phosphorus Loading in 2001-09



**Is another Alum Treatment the  
ANSWER?**

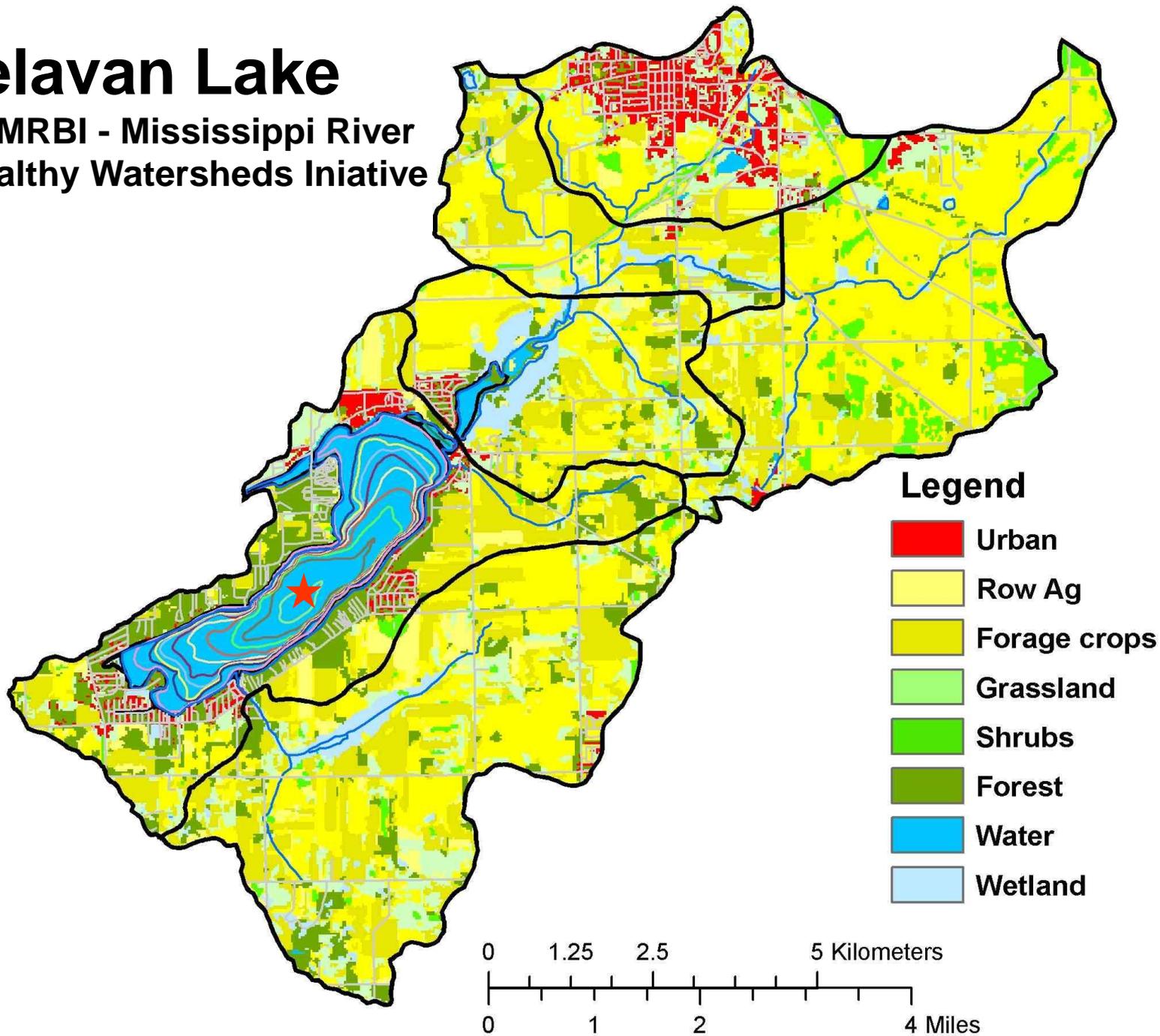
**More Dredging?**

**Biomanipulation?**

**~25% Reduction So Far**  
*Present Loading ~6,000 kg*

# Delavan Lake

USDA – MRBI - Mississippi River  
Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative





**Goal: Use Scientific Information in the Long-term Maintenance of Delavan Lake, Wis.**

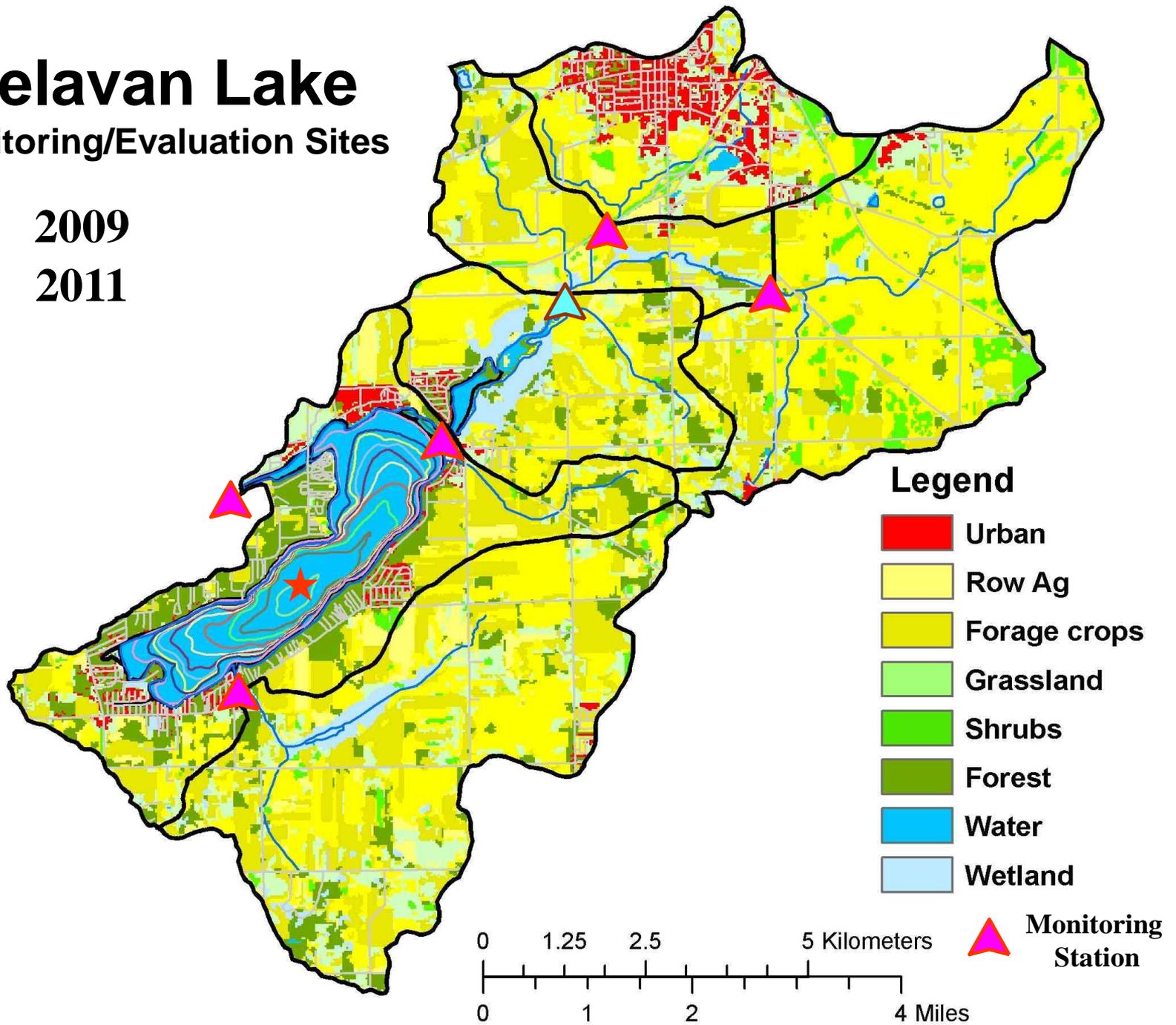
**Don't waste money on inefficient or short-lived projects (alum without stopping the source, short-circuiting without barriers)**

# Delavan Lake

## Monitoring/Evaluation Sites

2009

2011



## **Publications:**

**Robertson, D.M., Goddard, G.L., Helsel, D.R., and MacKinnon, K.L., 2000, Rehabilitation of Delavan Lake, Wisconsin, Lake and Reservoir Management, v. 16, no. 3. p. 155–176.**

**Panuska, J.C., and Robertson, D.M., 1999, Estimating phosphorus concentrations following alum treatment using apparent settling velocities, Lakes and Reservoir Management, v. 15, no. 1, p. 28-38.**

**Robertson, D.M., Elder, J.F., Goddard, G.L., and James, W.F., 1998, Dynamics in phosphorus retention in wetlands upstream of Delavan Lake, Wisconsin, Lakes and Reservoir Management, v. 14, no. 4, p. 466-477.**

# The Role of Science in the Long-Term Rehabilitation of Delavan Lake, Wis.

*Questions??*

Dale Robertson

U.S. Geological Survey

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Tele: 608-821-3867