

# Leech Lake

ASSOCIATION



The Voice of Leech Lake

**Our Mission: To be good stewards of Leech Lake and its environs, recognizing the vulnerability of the lake, and the need for citizens -- both individually and collectively -- to assume responsibility for its care.**

### Letter from the President,

Another long, cold winter with a spring to match, including another April blizzard which always seems to surprise us, but shouldn't. Our recent drought seems to have ended, at least temporarily, with every wetland, pond, and swamp now brimming with water. This is good news for the water table and wetlands.

20 inches this summer. This is a big deal, and should result in a few more walleye dinners for the average fisherperson.

Our board also participated in a group tasked with protecting water quality in the entire Leech Lake watershed, an area encompassing 1335 square miles, including 277 river miles and 750 lakes. This program (called the Leech Lake River One Watershed One Plan) is tasked with preventing water degradation in this important watershed which provides drinking water to the Twin Cities and is so important to our quality of life and tourist industry. Water quality is still good in this watershed but is threatened by many factors, including population pressures on area lakes and the ongoing conversion of pine lands to agriculture which threaten aquifers and area wells. Over the past several months a plan to deal with these threats has been proposed and approved by the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR), representing both Cass and Hubbard Counties. Work responsibilities and a budget are now being developed.

We also participated in a Cass County task force charged with developing a plan and budget for dealing with invasive species threats to Cass County lands and waters, and also sit on the board of the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) which is dealing with similar issues.

My point to the above is that the Leech Lake Association continues to be your eyes and ears while many of you are away for the winter. And since communication is a two-way street, please let us know your concerns, and how we might help. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Robert Gisvold, President*

**April 13. Walker Bay looking north towards Breezy and Templar Points**



Photo by Dave Laursen

Leech Lake too will be heading into spring slightly higher than normal, but this should not be a problem, and may preclude the need to dredge the Roosevelt Canal again -- something that needed doing the last three years because of low water and sand being pushed by ice and wave action into the Traders Bay entrance.

I can report that your Leech Lake Association Board Members have been representing your interests over the winter by participating on a number of important committees which affect the health and future of the lake and surrounding area. We have a seat on the Leech Lake Fishing Advisory Committee which meets every spring to plan the direction of the Leech Lake fishery in both the short and long term. One consequence of this planning is the DNR decision to allow the keeping of one walleye over

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 11th**  
*Walleye/Northern/Bass Fishing Season Opener*
- June 1-2**  
*Leech Lake Walleye Tournament*
- June 20-22**  
*Moondance Jammin Country*
- July 4**  
*Fireworks – City Park*
- July 18-20**  
*Moondance Jam*
- August 2**  
*Leech Lake Association Annual Meeting & Picnic*
- August 10-12**  
*Leech Lake Regatta*
- August 15-17**  
*Cajun Fest, Northern Lights Casino*
- September 6-8**  
*Muskies Inc. Int'l Tournament*
- September 7**  
*Ethnic Fest*
- September 14**  
*Walker North Country Marathon*

## SPINY WATERFLEAS - ANOTHER INVASIVE THREAT TO LEECH LAKE

The spiny waterflea is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) that is not present in Leech Lake but is present in Lake of the Woods, Vermillion, Mille Lacs and 40 other MN lakes. Recreational boaters and anglers can inadvertently move them or their eggs on fishing line, bait buckets, live wells, or fishing nets. If introduced in Leech Lake, spiny waterfleas have the potential of harming walleye and perch populations. They can be kept out of the lake if boaters coming from contaminated waters take extra care to follow DNR rules.

Spiny waterfleas are a microscopic freshwater zooplankton that invade lakes and can take over the bottom of the food chain, disturbing the ecology of the lake and presenting a serious potential threat to Minnesota lakes. They can decimate populations of *Daphnia* and other native zooplankton resulting in a decreased food source for native fish and an increase in algal blooms. They can also clog the eyelets of fishing rods, causing problems for recreationalists.

At their peak, their populations reproduce rapidly and can be as high as 100 individuals per cubic meter, sometimes taking over the biomass of the lake. There are fewer predators on spiny waterflea than on native zooplankton because small or young native fish can't consume their sharp, barbed spine.

### WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE:

Spiny waterflea is a member of the Crustacea, a large taxonomic group that includes crayfish, shrimp, and crabs. Adult spiny waterfleas grow to be about one centimeter long. They have a single long tail with multiple barbs, which helps them avoid predation. When they are grouped together, as ensnared on fishing lines and cables, they collect and form gelatinous globs.

### LIFE CYCLE:

Part of spiny waterfleas' success is due to their ability to reproduce rapidly -- they can mature and reproduce within about one week. They can reproduce both asexually and sexually. Females can produce up to 10 young every two weeks without mating. In the fall, males and females reproduce sexually and produce resting eggs that settle in lake sediments where they overwinter in a dormant state. These resting eggs are resistant to short term drying (up to four hours) when out of the water and can establish a new infestation in a different lake. In adulthood, they prefer cooler water and are generalist predators, meaning they are able to feed on a broad range of prey.



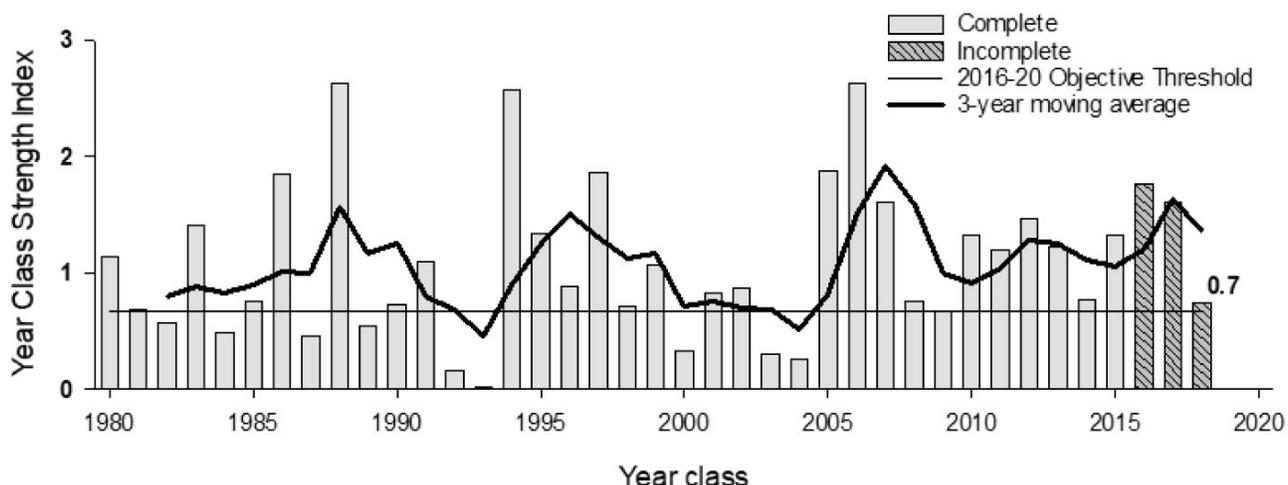
# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## MN DNR Fisheries Management Actions and Surveys on Leech Lake: 2018

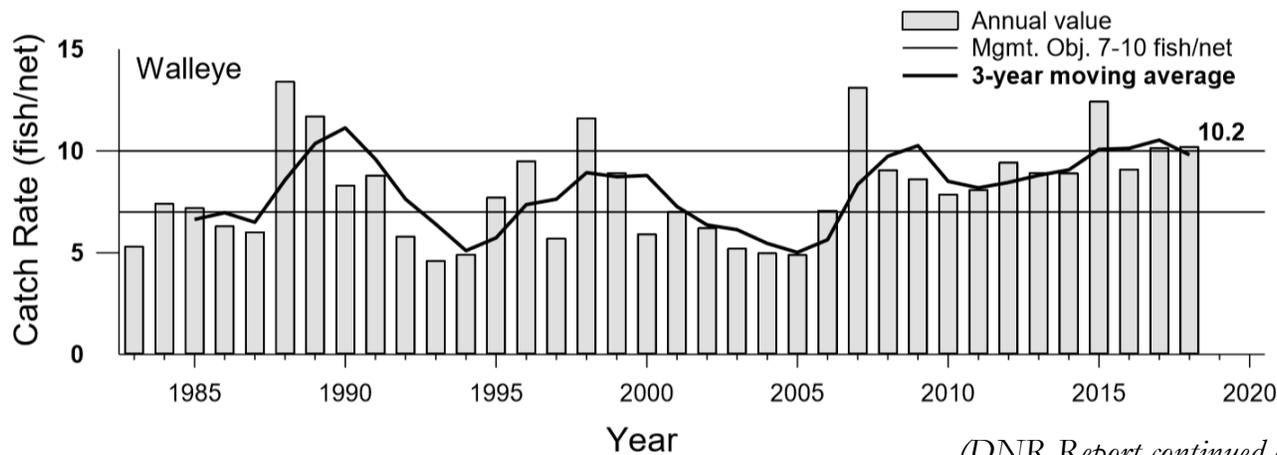
### Young-of-Year Walleye Growth and Abundance

- July Seining: The average length (3.5 in.) was above the long-term average of 3.3 inches and the number sampled per acre (3) was below the long-term average of 68.
- August Trawling: The average length (5.2 in.) was below the long-term average of 5.3 inches and the number sampled per hour (69), was below the long-term average of 179.
- September Electrofishing: The average length (6.7 in) was above the long-term average of 6.0 inches. Walleye recruitment is generally higher when mean September length exceeds 6.0 inches. The number sampled per hour (56) was below the long-term average of 100.

**Walleye Recruitment:** Year class strength index values are determined from gill net catch of ages 1-3 and predicted for age-0 from gill net and trawl catch data (Figure 1). Incomplete values for 2016 (1.77) and 2017 (1.61) cohorts exceed the management plan objective threshold (0.66) as does the 2018 predicted year class (0.74).



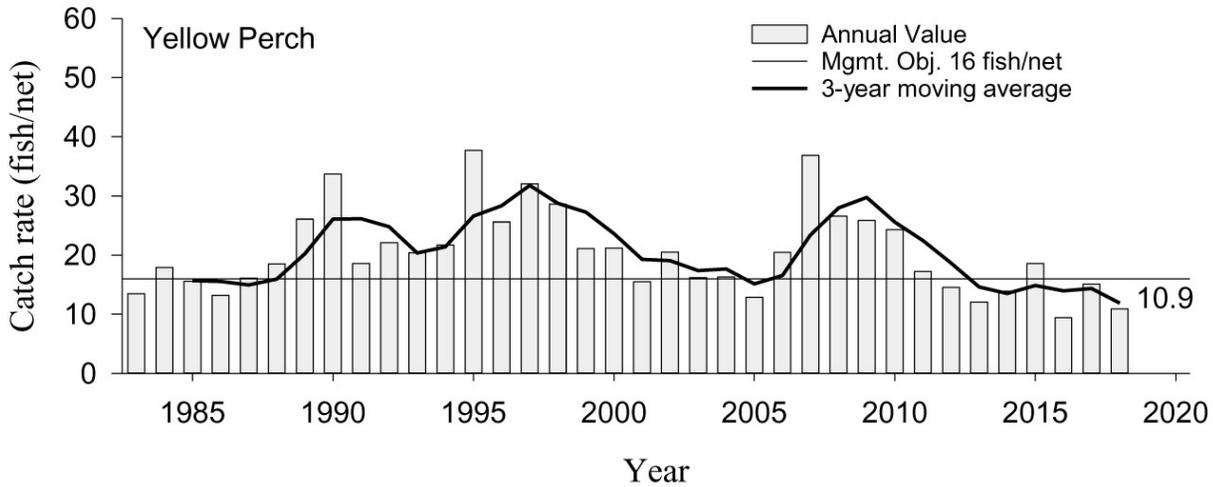
**Walleye Abundance and Size Range:** The gill net catch rate of 10.2 fish/net was above the management objective. Lengths of Walleye sampled ranged from 7 to 27 inches and demonstrated a balanced size distribution with strong year classes in 2016 and 2017.



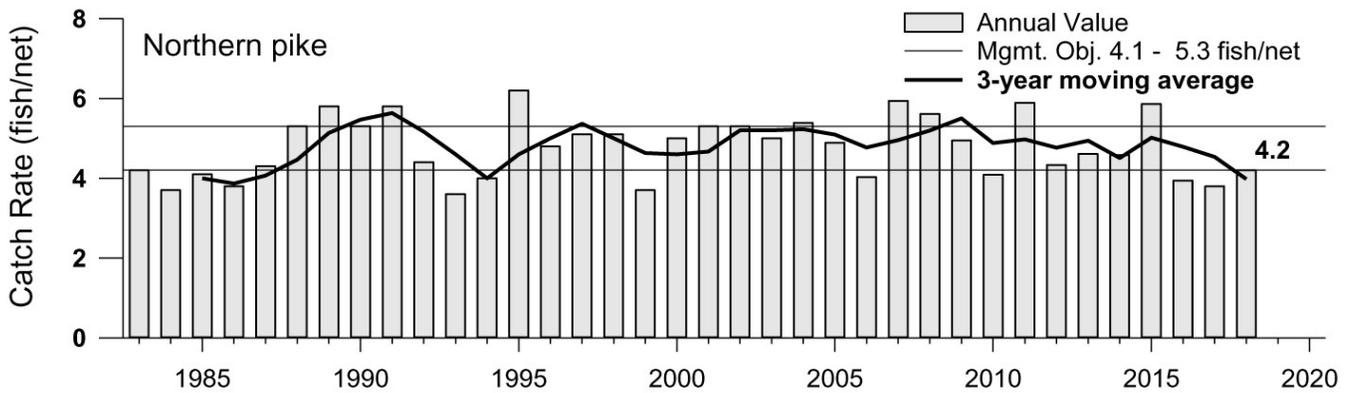
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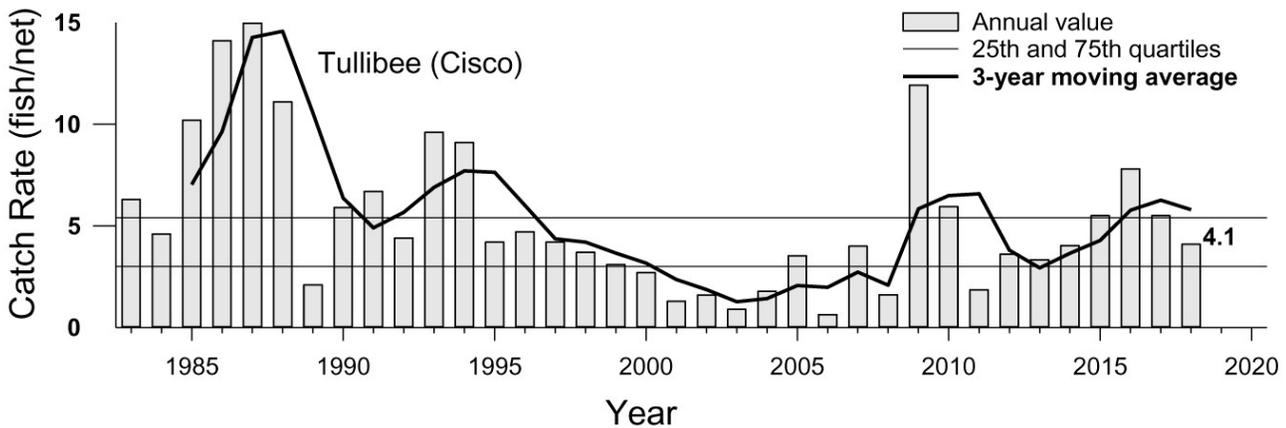
**Yellow Perch Abundance and Size Range:** The gill net catch rate (10.9 fish/net) remains below the management plan objective of at least 16 perch per net. Perch up to 12” long were sampled.



**Northern Pike Abundance and Size Range:** Northern Pike gill net catch rates (4.2 fish/net) were just above the lower management objective of 4.1 fish per net. Pike up to 33 inches were sampled.



**Tullibee (Cisco) Abundance:** The Tullibee catch rate (4.1 fish/net) was within the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> quartiles.



(DNR Report continued on page 5)

(DNR Report continued from page 4)

## STATUS OF THE FISHERY (AS OF 4/22/2019)

The most notable change concerning Leech Lake is the MNDNR proposal to modify the Walleye regulation. After careful evaluation of the Leech Lake fishery and public input the MNDNR decided to modify the Walleye regulation from a 20 to 26" protected slot limit to a one Walleye over 20 inches in possession while maintaining the four fish bag limit.

### Advantages

- ▶ Maintain consistent fishing, while mitigating buildup of larger fish
- ▶ Provide increased harvest opportunities
- ▶ Reduce pressure on forage base (primarily Yellow Perch)

### Tradeoffs

- ▶ All current management plan objectives for Walleye may not be met
- ▶ Potential to re-impose a protected slot limit if harvest adversely impacts abundance of spawning females.

The majority of those that provided comments were in support of the regulation change. The regulation will be in effect starting at the open water fishing opener in May of 2019. A creel survey will be conducted in 2019 to help evaluate the impacts to fishery of the regulation change.

### Updates on specific species are provided below:



**Walleye:** Since the current sampling plan that began in 1983, Walleye gillnet catch rates have ranged from 5 fish/net (1993) to 13 fish/net (1988). The 2018 catch rate was 10.2 (fish/net) which was similar to the 2017 catch rate (10.1 fish/net) and just above the management objectives of 7-10 fish/net. Walleye sampled in gillnets ranged in length from 7 to 27 inches, and included a number of younger year classes that should be large enough to harvest in the next year or two. While 15% of the Walleye in the 2018 sample were protected by the slot limit, nearly 20% were in the 15-19" size range that are preferred by anglers.



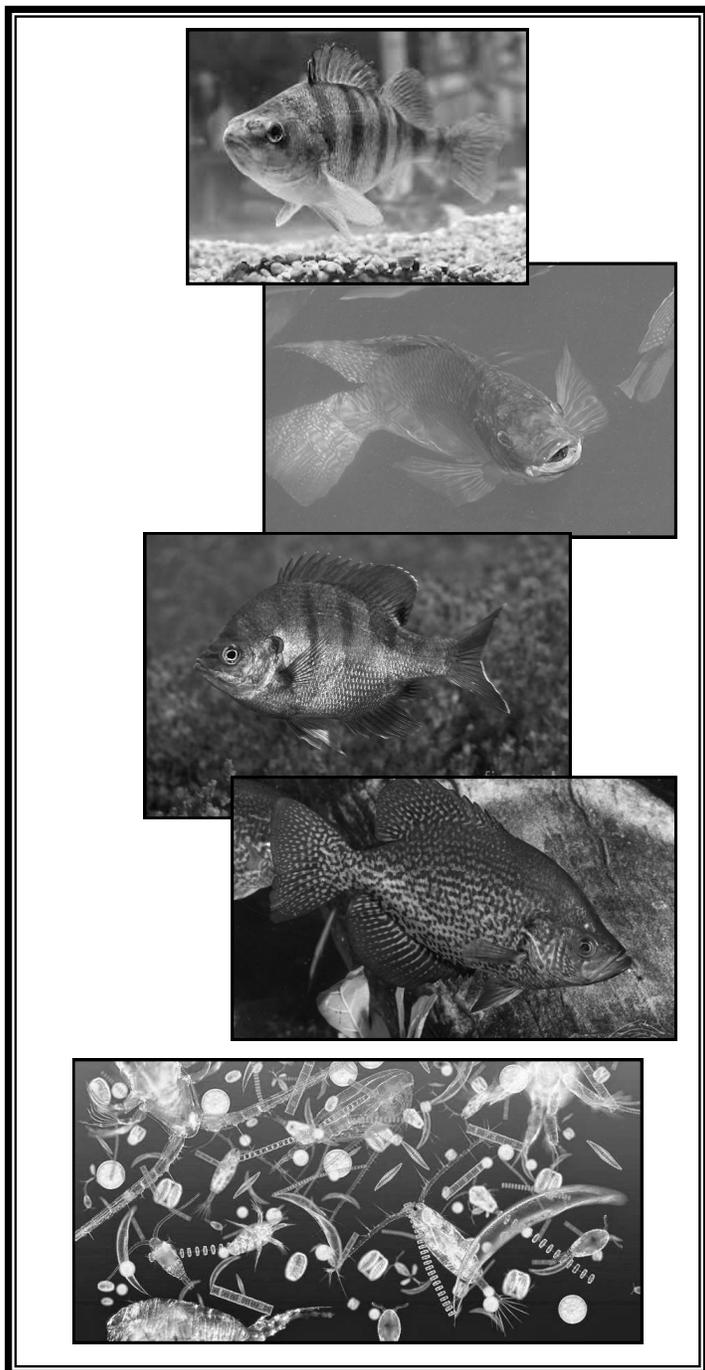
**Northern Pike:** The 2018 gillnet catch rate of Northern Pike was 4.2 fish/net. Northern Pike gillnet catch rates have remained relatively stable since 1983, ranging from 3.6 fish/net (1993) to 6.2 fish/net (1995) with an average of 4.8 fish/net. Northern Pike captured in 2018 gillnet sets ranged in length from 13 to 33 inches.



**Muskellunge:** Since 2015, the MNDNR has worked with Muskellunge tournament participants on Leech Lake to collect creel information. In 2018, the DNR obtained creel interviews from anglers from 3 tournaments. Information collected included hours fished, and the number and size of fish caught. Lengths of tournament Muskellunge caught on Leech in 2018 ranged from 22 to 51 inches and the average number of hours it took tournament anglers to catch a Muskellunge was 46 hours.

(DNR Report continued on page 6)

(DNR Report continued from page 5)



**Yellow Perch:** Catch rates in 2018 were 10.9 (fish/net), lower than the long-term average of 20.3(fish/net) and similar to the record low in 2016. Previous catch rates ranged from 9 fish/net (2016) to 38 fish/net (1995). Total lengths of Yellow Perch sampled ranged from 5 to 12 inches with 37 percent of the Yellow Perch in the 2018 sample over 8 inches.

**Largemouth Bass:** A lake wide Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Black Crappie assessment occurred during the springs of 2012 and 2015 and was repeated in 2018. Catch rates for fish  $\geq 15$  inches were similar between 2015 (6 fish/hour), 2012 (5 fish/hour) and 2018 (3 fish/hour). Lengths ranged from 3 to 19 inches. Anglers can find quality bass and pan-fishing opportunities in the beds of mixed vegetation in most major bays.

**Bluegill:** Spring electrofishing catch rates for all Bluegill (30 fish/hour) were lower than the 2015 (47 fish/hour) and 2012 (33 fish/hour) catch rates. Twenty percent of the Bluegill sampled in 2018 were over 8 inches. Lengths in 2018 ranged from 2 to 10 inches.

**Black Crappie:** Spring electrofishing catch rates for all Black Crappie were 4 fish/hour in 2018, 9 fish/hour in 2015 and 5 fish/hour in 2012. Lengths ranged from 4 to 14 inches and of all Black Crappie sampled in 2018, 44% were 10 inches or longer.

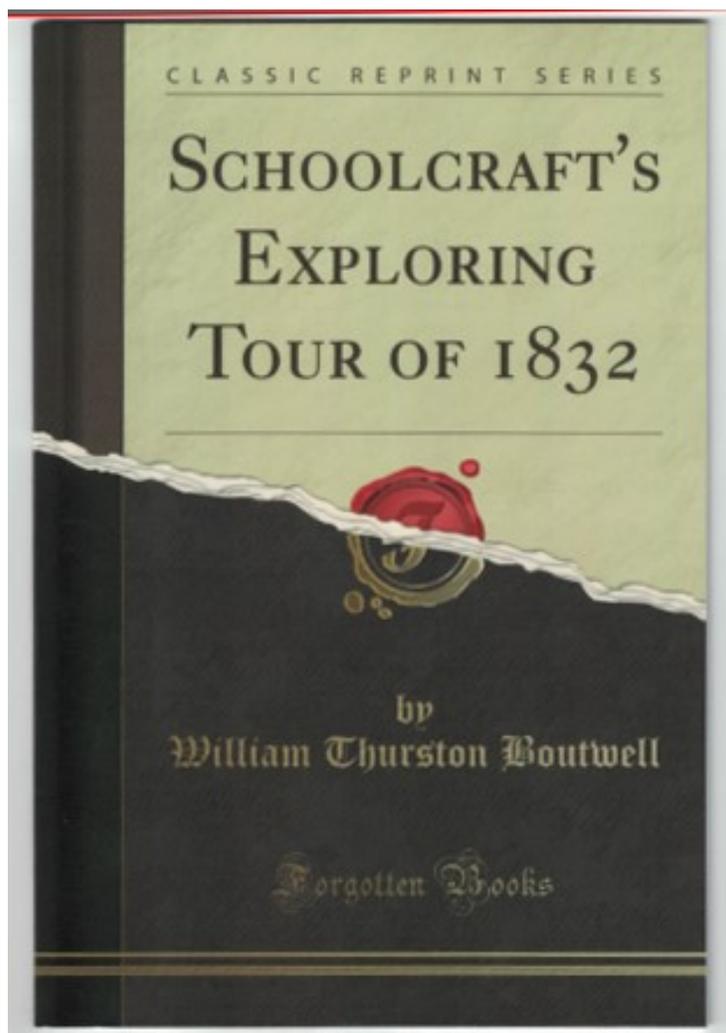
**Zooplankton:** Zebra mussel veligers were again found in zooplankton samples in 2018 in a number of different samples. There were 40 samples taken in 2018. Two veligers were found in Walker bay on September 18, one veliger in Agency Bay on September 18 and two veligers in Agency Bay on October 12. In addition, the same sailboat that had small adults in 2017 was found to have them in 2018. Examinations of the harbor where the boat had been moored failed to detect any adult zebra mussels.

**Carl Pedersen, Large Lake Specialist, Walker Area Fisheries, [Carl.Pedersen@state.mn.us](mailto:Carl.Pedersen@state.mn.us) (218) 547-1683**  
**Doug Schultz, Area Supervisor, Walker Area Fisheries, [Doug.W.Schultz@state.mn.us](mailto:Doug.W.Schultz@state.mn.us) (218) 547-1683**

## LEECH LAKE IN ANTIQUITY

Reverend William Boutwell accompanied Henry Schoolcraft on his 1832 journey in search of the source of the Mississippi River. Boutwell assisted Schoolcraft in coming up with a name for the lake (Lake Itasca) and also kept a detailed diary of their journey. The diary is very interesting for what it says about Leech Lake, where the Ojibwe and Sioux Indians were still at war, but also about the travails and hardships of the journey. Boutwell must have liked what he saw at Leech Lake because he returned a year later with his bride to take up residence as a missionary to the Indians.

The difficulty of this journey to Leech Lake and beyond is vividly portrayed in Boutwell's description of ascending the St Louis River from Lake Superior.



## ***JUNE 25 - ASCENT OF THE ST LOUIS RIVER.***

To begin this portage, which is nine miles, we are obliged to ascend a bluff sixty or seventy feet, in an angle of at least forty-five degrees. Up this steep all our baggage and the lading of two barges must be carried on the heads or backs of the men. I say heads, from the fact that a voyageur always rests his portage collar on the head. A portage is always divided off into poses, or resting places, which vary in length according to the quality of the road or path, but average about half a mile. Our supplies of pork and flour are into a shape convenient for this kind of transportation. A keg of portk, seventy pounds, and a bag of flour, eighty pounds, is considered a load: or in the in dialect of the country, a piece, for a voyageur, both of which he takes on his back at once and ascends the bluff. This is new business for the soldiers, who are obliged to carry their own baggage and provisions. The first attempt they made to ascend with their keg of pork and bag of flour, almost everyone was unsuccessful. It was not merely a matter of amusement to look at the pork kegs, flour-bags, knapsacks, baggage, and men which strewed the foot of the ascent, but such to awaken pity and prompt a helping hand. I undertook to aid one by steadying the bag of flour upon the keg of pork. But we had not proceeded far, when in spite of me, off came the flour and rolled to the bottom of the bluff. We then both of us undertook to manage the keg, which, not without much difficulty, we succeeded in getting to the top of the bluff. We have made three poses, (a mile and a half,) and here we are overtaken by night.

## ***JUNE 26***

At four this morning our men began their day's work. A heavy shower during the day has rendered the path very bad and retarded us somewhat. Our way today has been over hills, across deep ravines, and some of the way through mud and water half a leg deep. But notwithstanding the rain and badness of the path, the voyageurs are cheerful and prompt at their task. They carry their load half a mile, where it is thrown down and they return for another. Some of the men today have taken three bags, 240 pounds, the whole supported by a strap across the temples, the ends of which are made fast around the bags. Some of the Indian women, several of whom are assisting on the portage, have taken each a bag of flour, a trunk, and soldier's knapsack on her back, and waded through mud and water where I would not drive a dumb beast. And more, not infrequently, the Indian cradle is placed on the top of all,

*(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued on page 8)*

*(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued from page 7)*

the hoop of which defends the child's head, projecting so high as to catch every bush, now dripping with rain, and shake it full into the child's face. As the mother cannot well leave the nursing child, it must ride both ways, so that she has not the relief of a voyageur, who takes breath in returning back for another load.

## **JUNE 27**

Struck our tent and renewed our march this morning at six. One of the soldiers, who is disabled, a Catholic, a very profane man, saw me reading a tract, and came and asked me for one. It was but yesterday I gave him a gentle reproof.

Several (Indian) families keep along in company with us, who are on their way to their summer hunting ground. The woman is often seen with all the materials on her back which makes the Indian's house, and the articles which furnish it, such as kettles, wooden ladles, drum, traps, and axes; and on the top of all the Indian cradle, in which is bound her nursing child; while the Indian is seldom seen with more than his pipe, tobacco-sack, and musket.

About one o'clock today we reached the end of the (St Louis River) portage. The weather is very warm, and all our men and the Indians are much worn with fatigue. Mr. Schoolcraft distributed presents to the Indians, most of whom have aided us in carrying. They all seem highly gratified with what they receive, and wholly to have forgotten the mud and water through which they have waded. Nor are the women neglected. After the presents were distributed, provisions were issued. The flour and meal they take, as usual, in one corner of their blanket, which has served the place of a shirt, without ever seeing a drop of water or a bit of soap. But after all, there is not so great a distance between these Indians and our voyageurs as one might suppose, for they often receive their ration of flour in their pocket handkerchief or hat.

(to be continued)

Editor's Note: Reverend Boutwell brought his bride over these portages the next year on their honeymoon as he traveled to Leech Lake to take up his missionary work to the Indians.

## **COLONIAL WATER BIRD UPDATE**

There are six species of colonial water birds that nest on Leech Lake, including White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Herring Gulls, Ring-

billed Gulls, Caspian Terns, and Common Terns. All of these species nest in mixed colonies on Gull and Pelican Islands. With the exception of Common Terns, all of these species are doing pretty well. Common terns have a difficult time as they are smaller and return to nest later so they have a hard time competing for the best nesting spots. Leech Lake is one of only four sites where this species nests in Minnesota. The Caspian Tern is the other species of tern that is now seen on Leech Lake. This is the only place in Minnesota where this species has been documented to successfully nest. In 2018 they fledged about 290 young.



*Caspian Terns*

## **CORMORANT MANAGEMENT PLAN -- 2019**

During the past two years we have been conducting a diet study to get better information on cormorant effects on fish populations before zebra mussel populations increase. During 2017 and 2018, about 700 birds were taken per year for this study. Actual control efforts have not been conducted for the past two years due to a federal lawsuit that halted this effort nationwide. The Leech Lake Reservation Division of Resource Manage (DRM) and MN DNR have been working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to get the Environmental Assessment for the diet study updated to include a provision to manage the lake's cormorant population at 500 reproducing pairs. This is a level that appears to not have a negative effect on fish populations. We are optimistic FWS will complete this work before this field season. We have also completed the artificial cormorant egg study that is another means of reducing cormorant numbers by limiting reproduction. This method worked well and should be another tool for use on Leech Lake in future years.

*Prepared by Steve Mortensen and Tanya Roerick,  
Biologist Leech Lake Reservation DRM.*



**US Army Corps of Engineers**

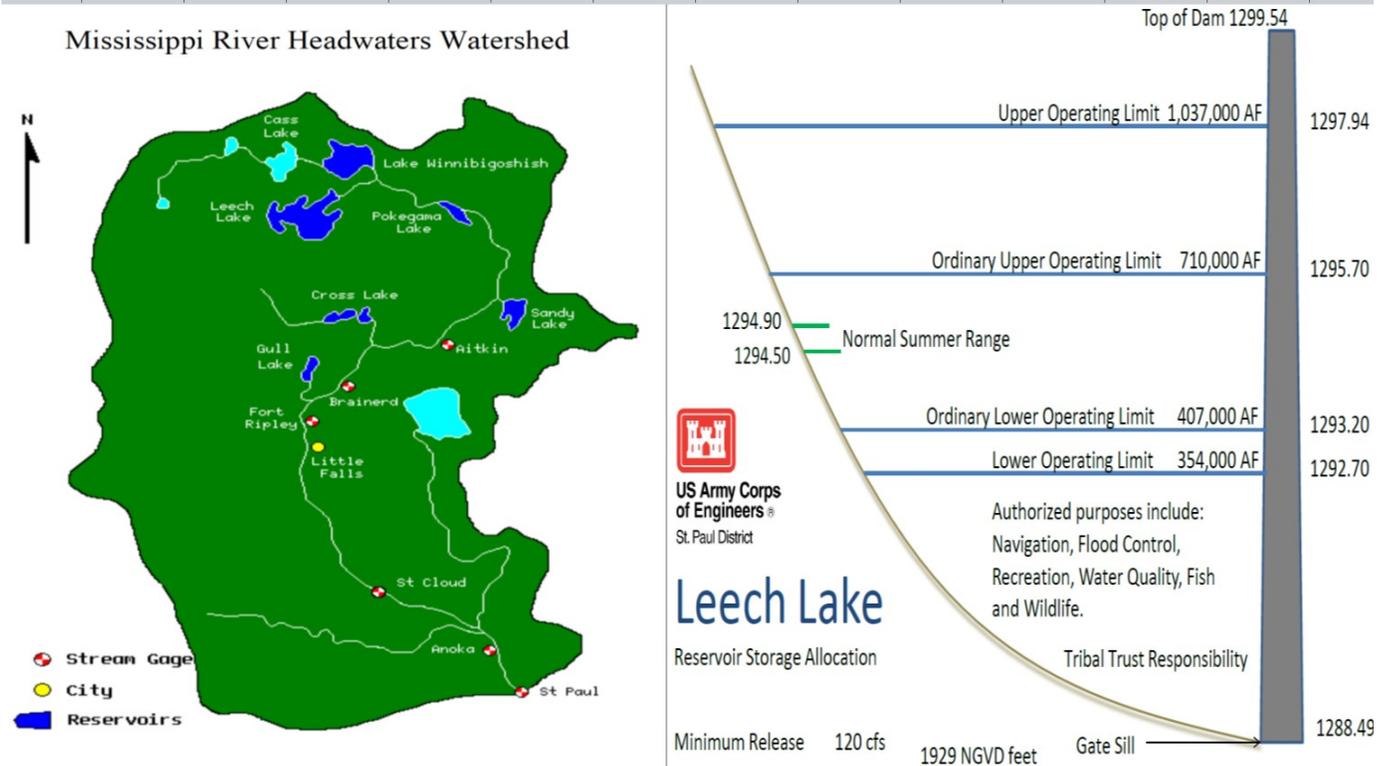
**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT, LEECH LAKE**  
 All elevations are referenced in 1929 NGVD.

This newsletter article was written on 4/16/2019 with information available at that time.



On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the water elevation (level) on Leech Lake is 1294.75 feet. The current discharge of Leech Lake Dam (LLD) is 120 cubic feet per second (CFS).

Leech Lake Dam (LLD) is one of six dams operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers within the Mississippi Headwaters Project. Water levels are governed by a congressionally approved water control plan that coordinates the operation of each reservoir as needed to achieve water control plan targets throughout varying seasons and weather conditions. Local conditions are considered as much as possible but downstream flood damage reduction can become priority when warranted. For example during wet cycles the Mississippi River in and around the Aitkin area often is forecasted or actually within flood stages that impact the operational decisions of Pokegama, Leech, and Winnie dams to assist with minimizing downstream flood damages. Another example that may impact operational decisions is the Mississippi River channel capacity in the Ball Club/Deer River area of only about 2200 cfs. The total combined outflow of Winnie and Leech cannot exceed that without causing flooding. See the following two images to get a better glimpse:



**LOOKING BACK:**

Much of 2017 and 2018 were impacted by drought effects. But late fall of 2018 delivered significant amounts of rain resulting in increased outflows to the Leech Lake Dam (LLD) over the winter months. December and January were very uneventful but we began receiving significant precipitation in February - March - April, 2019. The outflow to LLD was increased again in mid-February in response to ever increasing snow depths. Snow surveys are done by the US Army Corps of Engineers to keep track of moisture conditions throughout

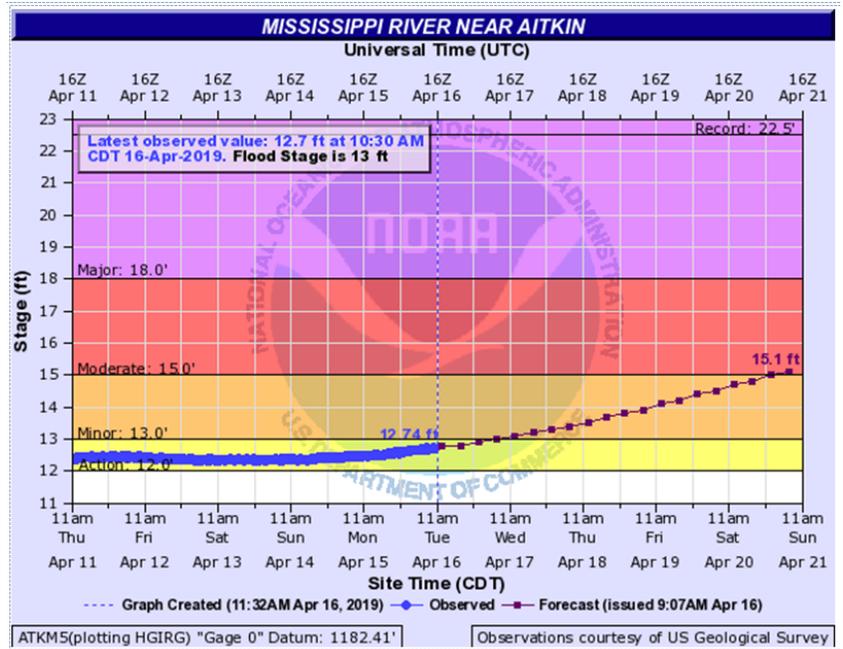
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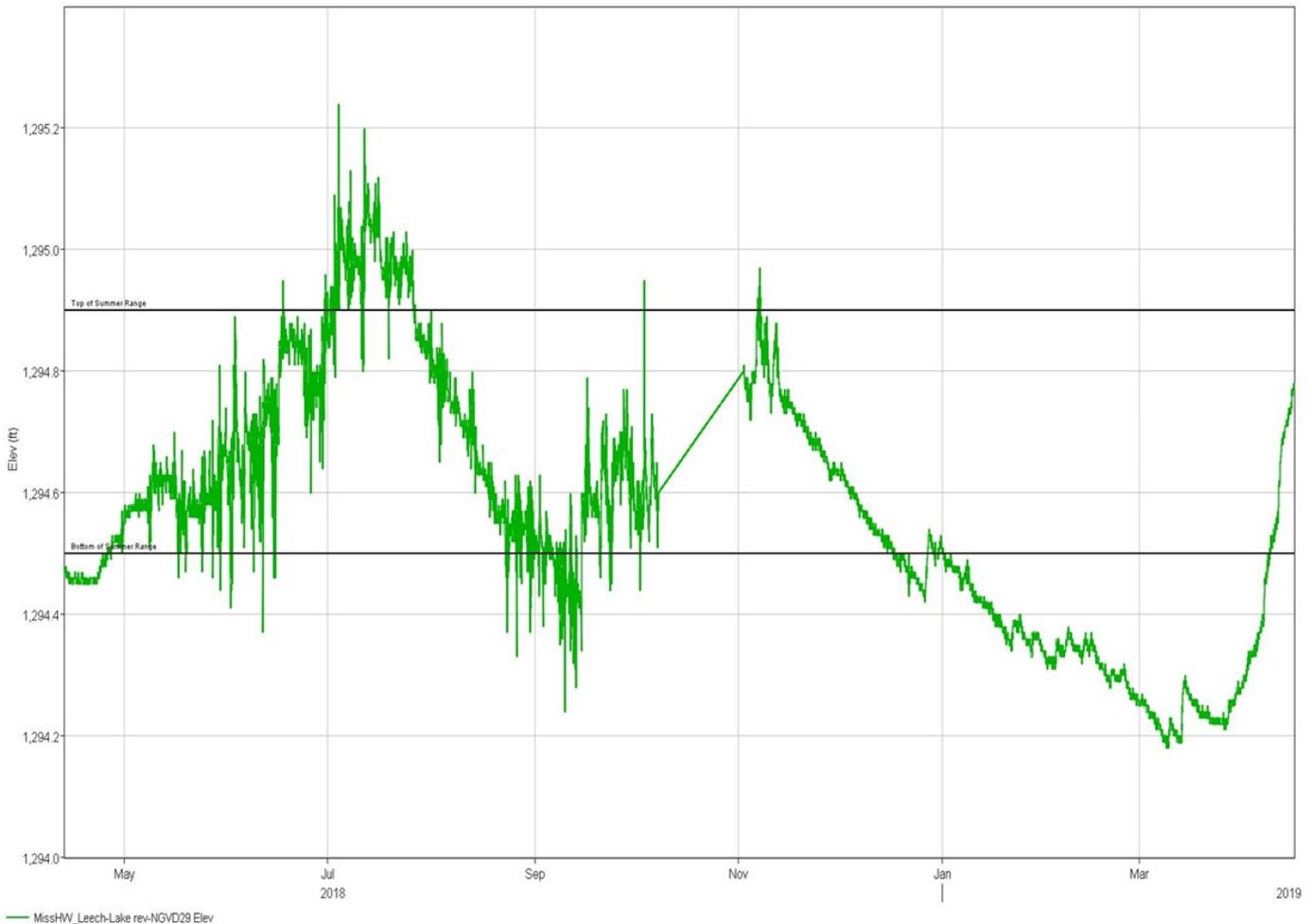
the watershed. On 01-March the Leech Lake Watershed had over six inches of moisture in the snow. That compares to about 3 – 4 inches during a normal winter at the end of February. Since then the area has received several additional significant precipitation events.

**WHERE WE STAND NOW:**

High water is very widespread throughout Minnesota this spring. In the chart to the right, the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, Duluth Office provided the following official flood forecast for Aitkin; updated on 4/16/2019:



**LEECH LAKE, SUGAR POINT, MN 4/16/2018 TO 4/16/2019 HYDROGRAPH:**



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*(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 10)*

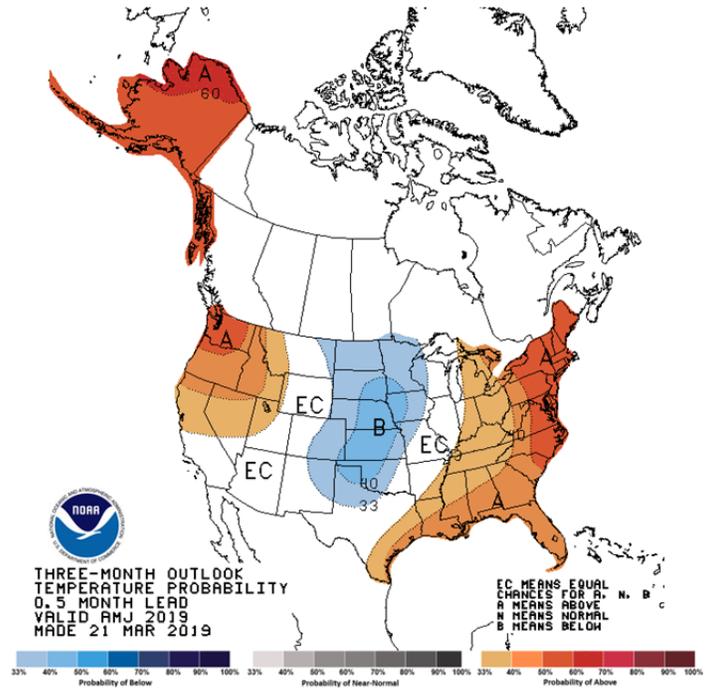
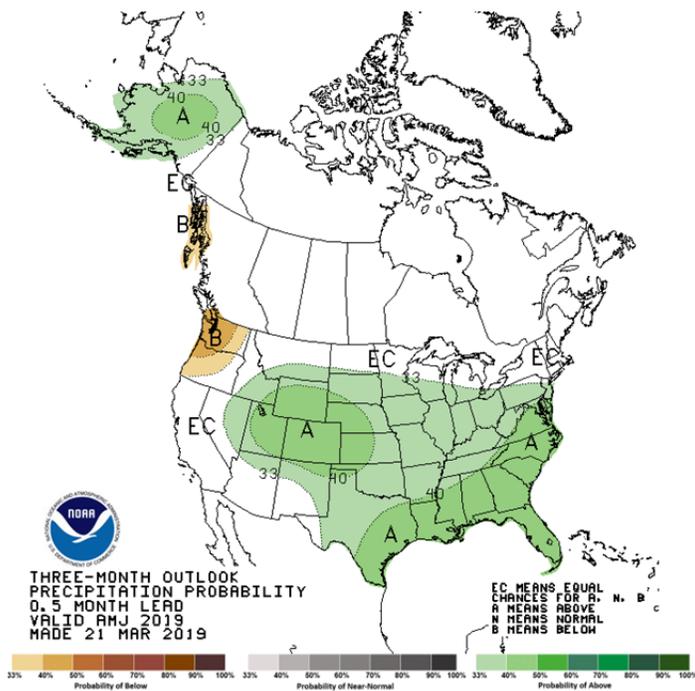
**Operation Summary Correlating to the Leech Lake Water Level Hydrograph (on page 10):**

- ▶ **Apr 2018:** Spring precipitation run-off concluded at EL 1294.45.
- ▶ **May-Jul 2018:** Leech Lake rising from rain to slightly above desirable summer range.
- ▶ **Jul-Sep 2018:** Leech Lake within desirable summer range but dry weather having impact.
- ▶ **Sep-Nov 2018:** Leech Lake rises due to Sep rain but experienced pronounced bounce in late October due to heavy rain.
- ▶ **Dec 2018:** Winter draw down begins due to fall precipitation. Downward trend indicating lake will achieve 1293.8 drawdown by spring. LLD stop log elevations are set during late fall to accomplish a gradual decrease in outflow as lake levels decline to mimic natural conditions. LLD gates and stop log bays freeze solid during winter conditions making outflow adjustments very expensive.
- ▶ **Jan – Mar 2019:** Draw-down occurring. High levels of snow-fall impacting the drawdown curve. Outflow increased in Feb to accelerate drawdown.
- ▶ **Mar 2019:** Outflow reduced in late March to the congressionally approved water control plan minimum outflow of 120cfs to provide downstream high water level relief caused by spring runoff.
- ▶ **Apr 2019:** Lake prematurely back into desirable summer range due to run off, high precipitation, and low outflow. Leech Lake is expected to rise above the desirable summer range.

**LOOKING FORWARD:**

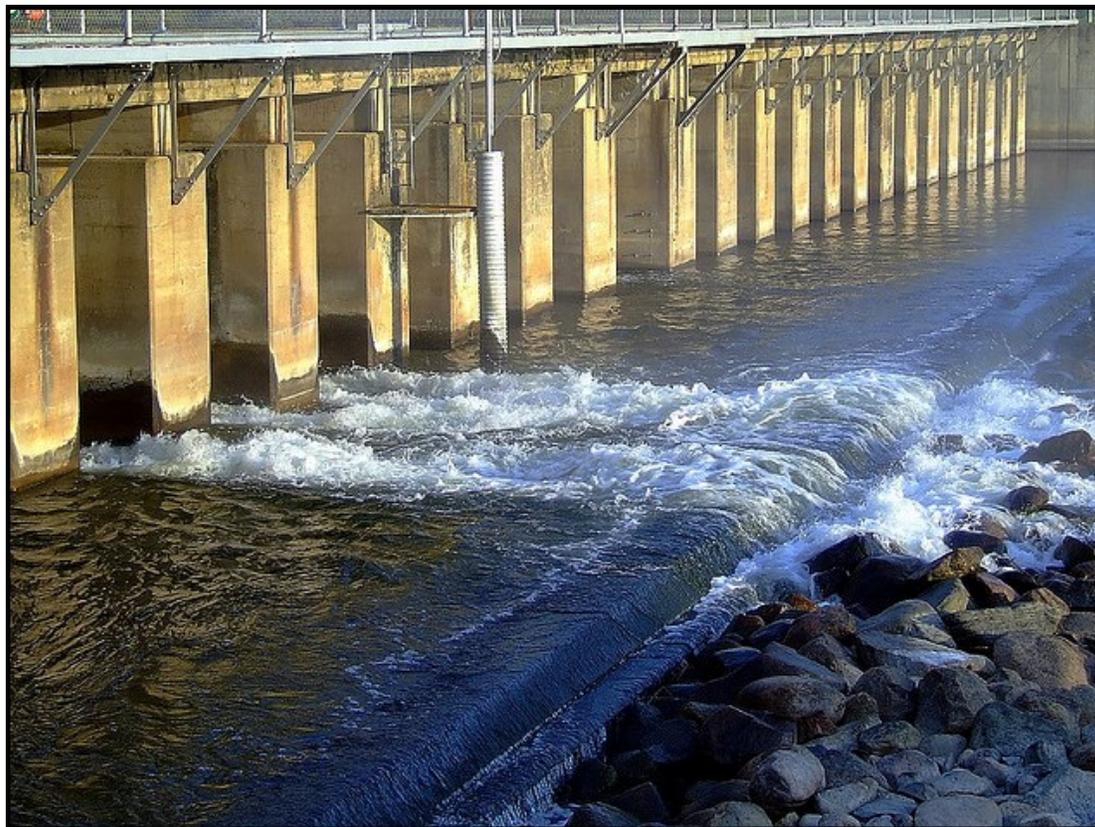
The CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP/NWS and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society is stating on 11 April 2019 that the current ENSO Alert System Status is an El Niño Advisory.

Synopsis: A weak El Niño is likely to continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer 2019 (65% chance) and possibly fall (50-55% chance):



*(US Army Corps of Engineers continued on page 11)*

*(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 11)*



## LEECH LAKE DAM

Leech Lake Dam is located on the North East corner of Portage Bay and forms the Leech Lake River. The Leech flows into the Mississippi south of US HWY 2 downstream of the MN DNR Mud/Goose Wildlife Management Area. The Corps of Engineers provides recreation facilities such as boat ramps, campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and other services within the grounds at Leech Lake Dam. Check us out and click on “recreation” at [www.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil)



### MORE INFORMATION

Please visit these web sites:

<http://water.usace.army.mil/a2w/f?p=100:1:0:>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/csg/index.html>

[https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=05205900&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv/?site_no=05205900&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

For questions or if you would like to comment regarding how lake levels are affecting you please email: [tim.v.rennecke@usace.army.mil](mailto:tim.v.rennecke@usace.army.mil)



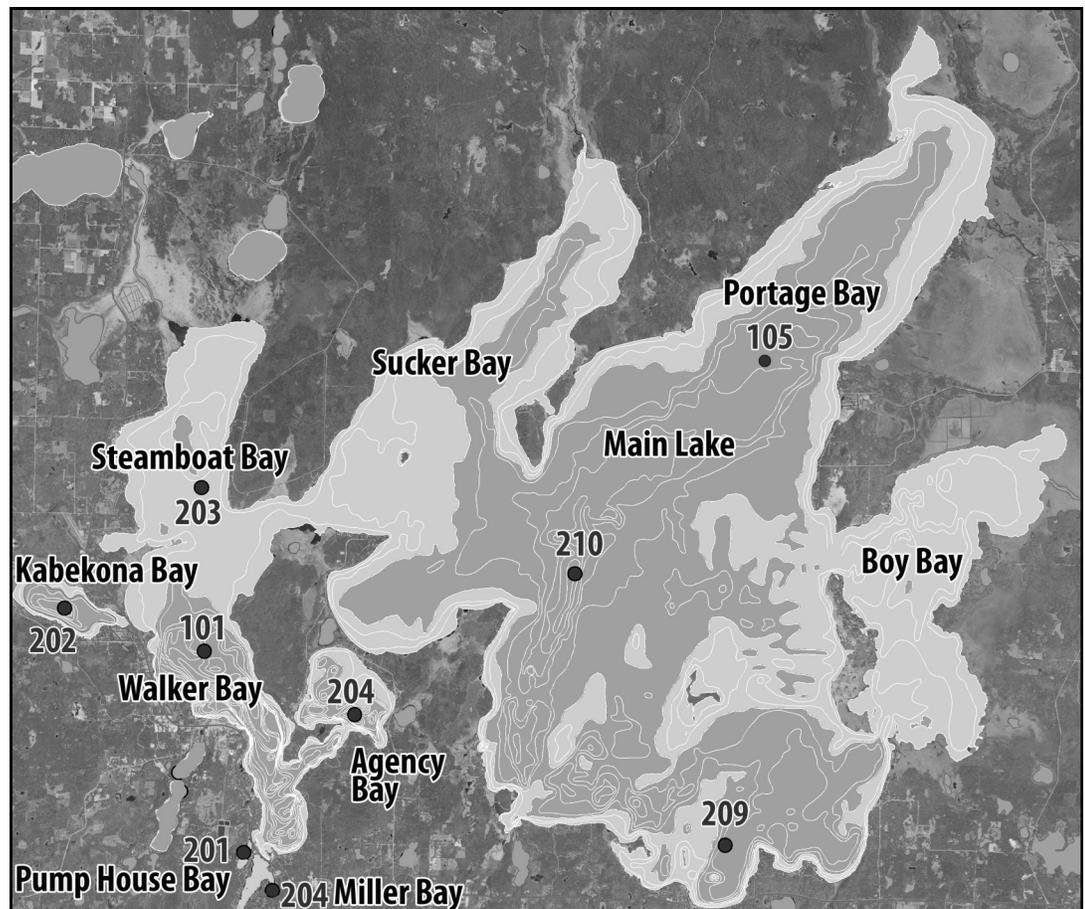
## LEECH LAKE MONITORING CONTINUES

This summer, Leech Lake Association volunteers will continue to collect water samples monthly from the main lake north of Stony Point, Agency Bay, Walker Bay and Kabekona Bay. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) volunteers also do Secchi Disk (water clarity) monitoring on Pump House Bay, Miller Bay, Whipholt and Steamboat Bay (see map below). All of this data is shared with the DNR and MPCA databases to help make decisions that affect Leech Lake.

The Leech Lake Association has employed RMB Labs over the past two years. We believe that we have developed a good partnership with this group which has been conducting similar water chemistry studies on more than 500 lakes around the State for the past 20 years. One of the strengths of their program is that they report all of our data, along with data collected from other Minnesota lakes, into the MPCA's statewide database. In this way, the data collected can be used in statewide assessments, county water plans, and local city and lake association planning. With a common database, the information is available to be used, rather than sitting in a drawer. There is an immense benefit in having multiple organizations collecting quality data on a local level, while at the same time providing statewide continuity. All of this lab work is funded by membership dues, with samples gathered by volunteers.

In 2017 and 2018, the Leech Lake Association agreed to partner with the MNDNR to collect and fund the analysis of the phytoplankton (algal) population of Leech Lake. This population -- at the bottom of the food chain -- is critical to young fish populations and the ultimate health of the Leech Lake fishery. We know that zebra mussels affect the food chain, and spiny waterfleas (see nearby article) may have even greater impact. Information gathered through these algal studies will provide another valuable piece of information as Leech Lake moves from a pre-infested to post-infested status regarding zebra mussels, and spiny waterfleas if and when they arrive.

The Leech Lake Association funded these algal studies the past two years. This year the algal lab work will be funded by a Cass County Partnership Grant staffed by Leech Lake Association volunteers. We thank Doug Schulz and Carl Pederson from the Walker DNR office for their assistance in helping us successfully apply for this grant.



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**Leech Lake Association**

Leech Lake Association  
P.O. Box 1613  
Walker, MN 56484

**Check Us Out At: <http://www.leechlakeassociation.com/>**

[http://www.leechlakeassociation.com/](#) 100%

We are so pleased to offer you this enhanced website where we are able to share our mission, committee reports, area calendar of events, current news, membership information, our history, photo's, area maps, links, meeting minutes, feedback and contact information. In the future we will be adding fishing reports and other valuable area information.

As part of the Association's efforts to communicate to our members we have also created a Facebook site. For those of you using Facebook you can go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeechLakeAssociation/> and request to join. As soon as you are approved you will have full access to the site. We look forward to seeing you there!

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# Leech Lake

## ASSOCIATION INC

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A special welcome to all our new members, and to all of you who have continued to support us over the years as the walleye fishery has recovered.



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