



# **The View From Your Dock**

**A Survey of Lac Courte Oreilles Property Owners  
and Those Who Visit and Cherish the Lakes**

Conducted by the Courte Oreilles Lakes Association  
October, 2020

# Overview

The Courte Oreilles Lakes Association (COLA) prepared a questionnaire of 48 questions addressing the mission of COLA, the success of its operations, and the needs of both Big and Little Lac Courte Oreilles (collectively referred to as LCO). The questionnaire was sent to LCO property owners, COLA members, and others who have long-term interest in the LCO lakes such as local businesses, township/county officials, renters, fishermen, etc. The printed survey was mailed to 977 people, and the on-line version was emailed to 631 people, nearly all of whom also received the printed version. The total response was 230, so the approximate response rate was 24%.

The goal of this survey was to encourage all of us to express our views about the LCO lakes and COLA. But first - who are we?

Those who responded to the survey are well distributed across all parts of the lakes. The vast majority own property, 1/3 of which has been passed down from previous generations, and many families (23%) have owned the same property for 50 years or more. Family time, recreation, peace and quiet are the most emphasized reasons for being at the lakes – relatively few (4%) cite investment opportunities as the primary reason to own property. Perhaps unique to this year of COVID-19, many reside on LCO in order to work remotely.

It's clear that we are involved in many recreational pursuits. Fishing, along with swimming and all such activities involving children and family (pontooning, towing inflatables, playing with kids in water) are the most popular. A significant number – perhaps mostly year-round residents – enjoy cross country skiing, snow shoeing, ice-fishing and snowmobiling. The higher-impact motorized water activities such as wake boating, speedboat cruising, and PWC-jet skiing are less popular.

It's very clear from the comments that we care deeply for the LCO lakes. Many cite family ties and memories. Others extol the peaceful setting and beautiful scenery. Still others celebrate the recreational opportunities. It's impossible to summarize the hundreds of heart-felt comments in question #8. Rather, read them yourself – it takes a while, but it's rewarding.

## **What are your views about the LCO lakes?**

Nearly all (96%) state that water quality is “very important.” Most characterize poor water quality in terms of increased phosphorus, reduced clarity, increased algae growth, excessive “weeds” and “muck,” swimmer's itch, increased silt, too many snails, decaying/floating mats of vegetation, and unproductive fishing.

A small faction (11%) feel that water quality is moderately to severely degraded near their property, but 43% believe that water quality has changed for the worse over last 10 years. The increase in aquatic invasive species (AIS) has affected the water around many people's shorelines (45%), and nearly half feel that fishing is not as productive as in the past.

The majority of respondents are well aware of the invasive plants curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil. Many are not as familiar with the Chinese banded snail, the mystery banded snail, and the rusty crawfish. Overall, 99% are “very” or “somewhat” concerned about AIS in the LCO lakes.

Most (67%) have not noticed any changes in recent years in the ability to navigate by boat in the LCO lakes. Those that have feel that the increase in AIS has harmed navigation, hurt fishing and generally hampered overall enjoyment of the lakes. AIS in Musky Bay, Stuckey Bay, the West Basin, and Barber Town Bay are of particular concern.

Based on the comments, there is some misunderstanding about native versus invasive plants, with a tendency to call all aquatic plants “weeds” and a mistaken desire to remove all “weeds” from LCO’s shores. As a general rule, native species should not be removed from the LCO lakes, so there’s a real need to better distinguish invasive from native species.

Swimmer’s itch is also a recurring issue, and there’s no doubt that swimmer’s itch really detracts from our enjoyment of the lakes. It’s also obvious that COLA needs to do more to make people aware of the relationship between ducks, snails, and swimmer’s itch – the parasitic flatworm causing swimmer’s itch relies primarily on ducks and snails to complete its life cycle. But other waterfowl and mammals such as raccoons, otters, muskrats, and beavers may also be involved. Simply put, feeding ducks or any lake wildlife is not a good thing to do if we want to reduce the incidence of swimmer’s itch.

### **What are your views about COLA?**

As expected, nearly all respondents are aware of COLA – 89% are members, and a majority have also made additional donations to COLA. COLA is well respected, and most are grateful for the job it does. The roles most valued for COLA are those of monitoring (e.g., water quality, shorelines, septic systems, AIS, fishery status), advocacy (e.g., WDNR, zoning) and education (e.g., communicating about all things water quality). The overall approval rating for these efforts was 90%.

Based on the comments, some people have an exaggerated sense of what COLA can actually accomplish by means other than education and persistent persuasion. COLA has no enforcement authority. Sawyer County along with the Sand Lake and Bass Lake townships enforce setbacks, impervious surface, buffer requirements, and boating regulations. To some degree, WDNR enforces water quality standards on LCO. COLA is still trying to find out who really controls LCO water level and how it’s done – issues of significant and persistent concern.

There is no enforcement of AIS control by any entity. COLA volunteers and individual property owners, along with the help of the LCO Tribe, do their best to rid the lakes of AIS. Most respondents (87%) are aware of COLA’s AIS efforts and support them. In fact, a significant portion (23%) want COLA to be more aggressive in controlling AIS.

Most respondents (82 %) are aware of COLA’s ongoing legal struggle with the WDNR. COLA’s legal strategies seem to be well-understood and supported (91%).

The vast majority receive and read COLA’s eblasts and newsletter (Short Ears, Long Tales), and 61% have visited COLA’s website in the last two years. Nearly all feel that COLA’s communication methods are worthwhile and effective, but some see a need for more timely updates on important issues. While many still want to receive information via the postal service, most want to have it delivered via email. So, if you haven’t done so already, please provide COLA with your email address if you want to stay up to date – contact [communications@cola-wi.org](mailto:communications@cola-wi.org).

Most respondents don't attend COLA's annual meeting or the July picnic, but those that do find the annual meeting to be more useful since it provides both updates and social opportunities. It's apparent that most use the LCO lakes for family time and recreation, not meetings. Understood – COLA is very grateful to those who make the effort to keep up with lake issues by attending its meetings. There is some sentiment for more opportunity for social interaction. COLA heartedly welcomes all those willing to help figure out how to respond.

While the LCO Tribe's role in protecting the LCO lakes was not the subject of the survey, it did seem as if many were unaware that 1/3 of the lake is on the LCO reservation and that the LCO Tribe and COLA work as a team on most matters.

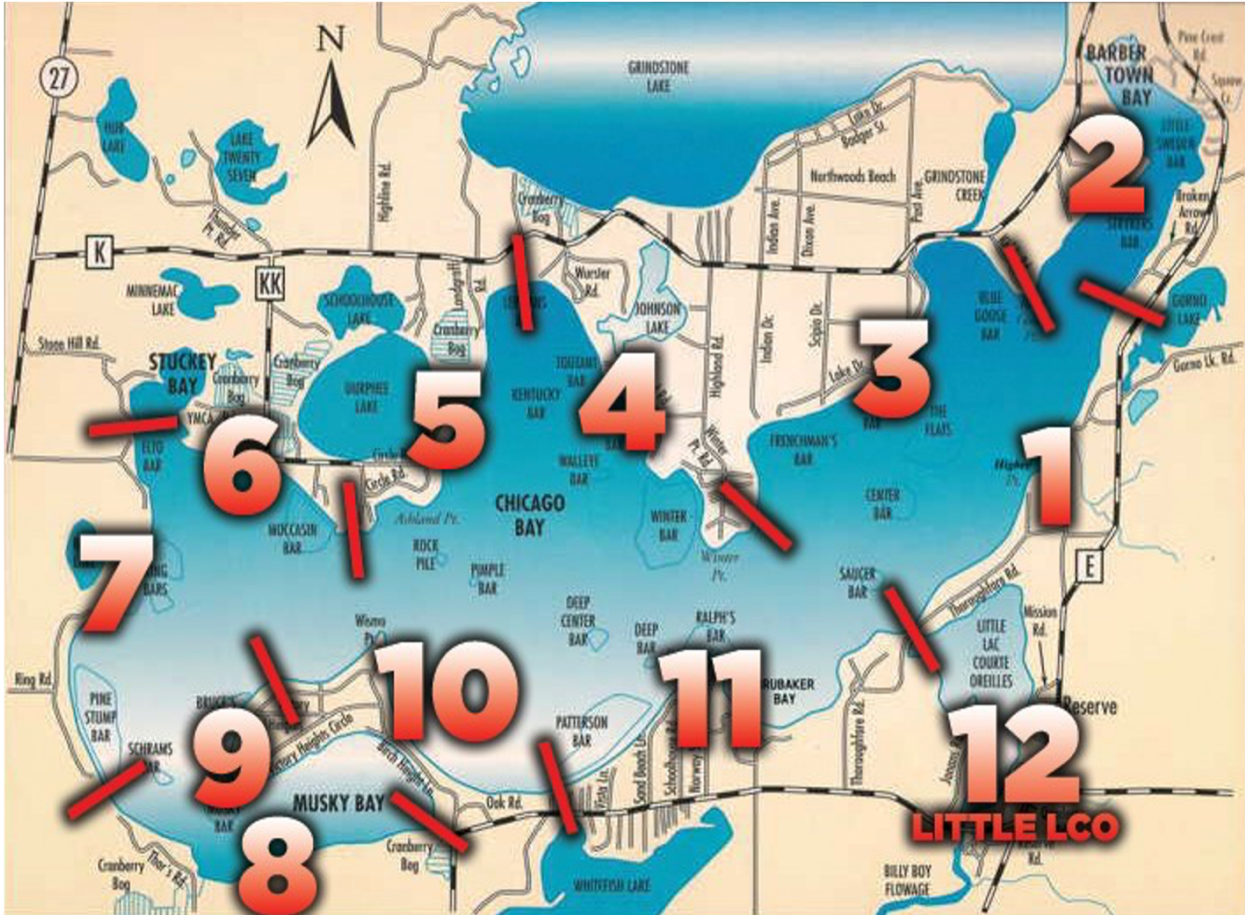
There were a number of negative comments highlighting such things as unsafe boaters, disregard of the 700' elevated wake limit, noise/loud music, degraded shorelines, excessive fireworks – basically inconsiderate and irresponsible behaviors of all types. Unfortunately, this is part of living on a large and attractive lake. The vast majority of us act responsibly, treat each other with respect, and promote all that's good for the LCO lakes. Perhaps we need to add another task – when we see something wrong, we do something to correct it. Contact the Sawyer County Sheriff, notify your Sand Lake/Bass Lake township representatives, send comments to the Sawyer County Record, ... Make your views known, especially to those in a position to respond.

It's really comforting that based on the questions asking for an assessment of COLA's overall value, 94% rated COLA as "somewhat" to "very" effective. But work remains – of that 94% about half rate COLA as only "somewhat" effective.

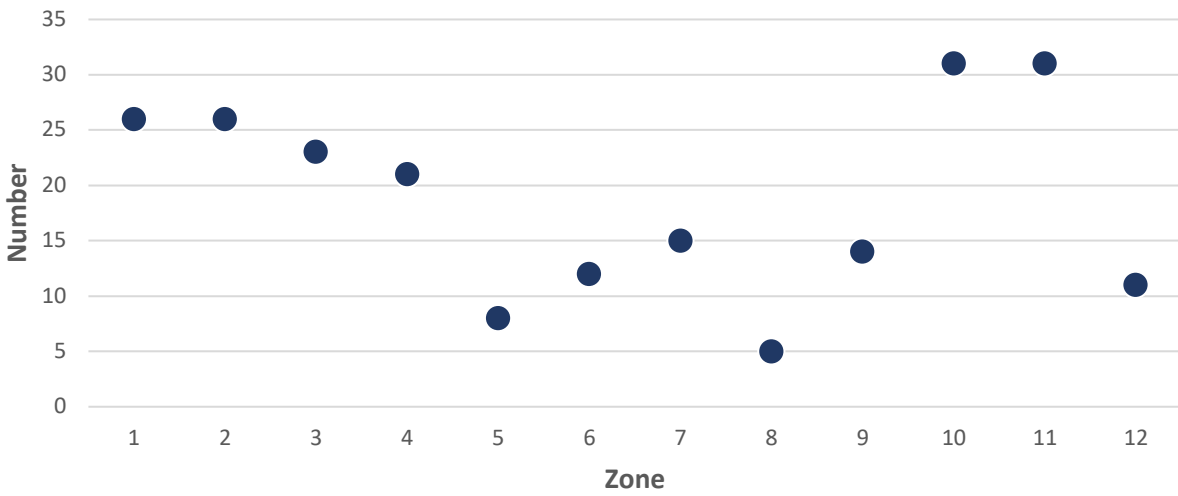
The second to the last question, "What do you think lake property owners should be doing as part of their responsibility in preserving the lakes and lake property?" provoked a number of interesting responses. It was clear that poor management of shoreline property – lack of buffer zones, fertilizer use, impervious surfaces, paved lake access, etc., was foremost on people's minds. It's great to see this. We've come a long way in the last several years, but it's also apparent that we still have a long way to go.

The answer to the last question on the survey was also gratifying in that the majority (52%) are content having COLA "act on my behalf." Some (15%) said they hope to volunteer in some fashion in the near future, while others (33%) cited their lack of free time. So, COLA will keep on keepin' on, but it could be a more effective operation if more were involved.

Now's your opportunity to dive into the survey results on your own. COLA is very grateful to all who responded and especially for the hundreds of comments you've provided. It's obvious that so many care about the LCO lakes, and the lakes will be better off because of it.

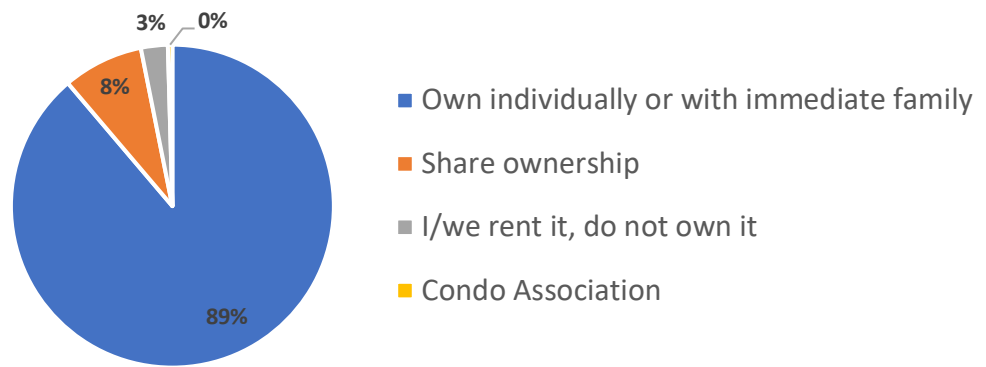


Based on the map, please tell us in which zone your lake property lies.



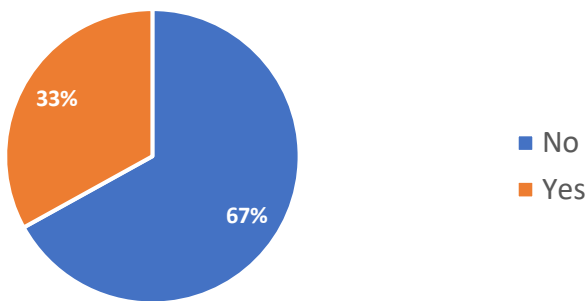
223 responses

**1. Characterize the ownership of your lake shore property.**



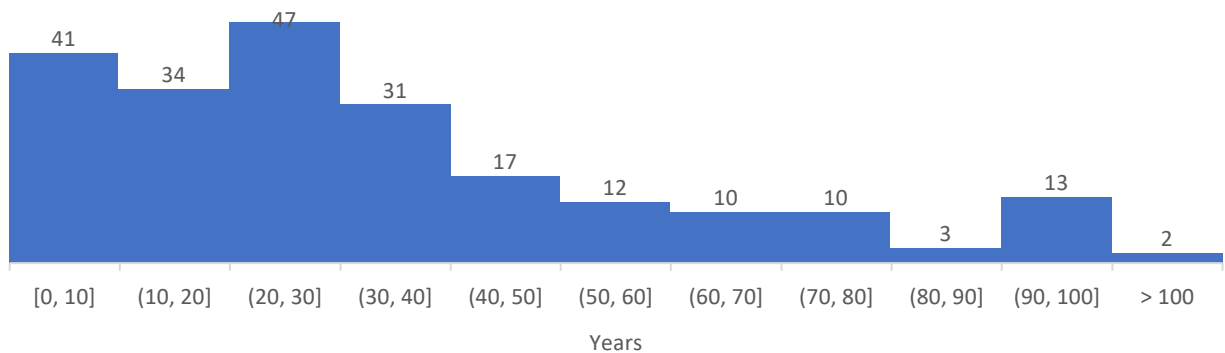
223 responses

**2. Was your property passed down from previous generations of your family?**

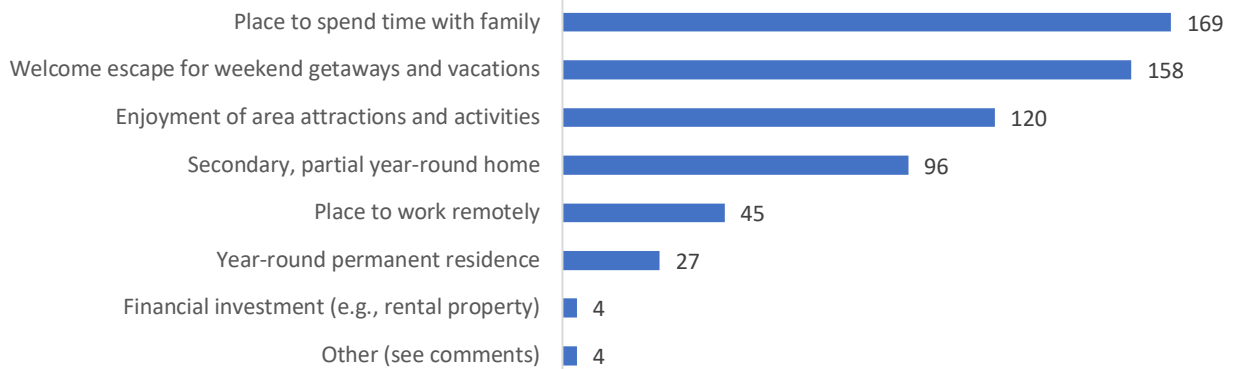


227 responses

**3. How many years have you had/owned property on/near the LCO lakes?**



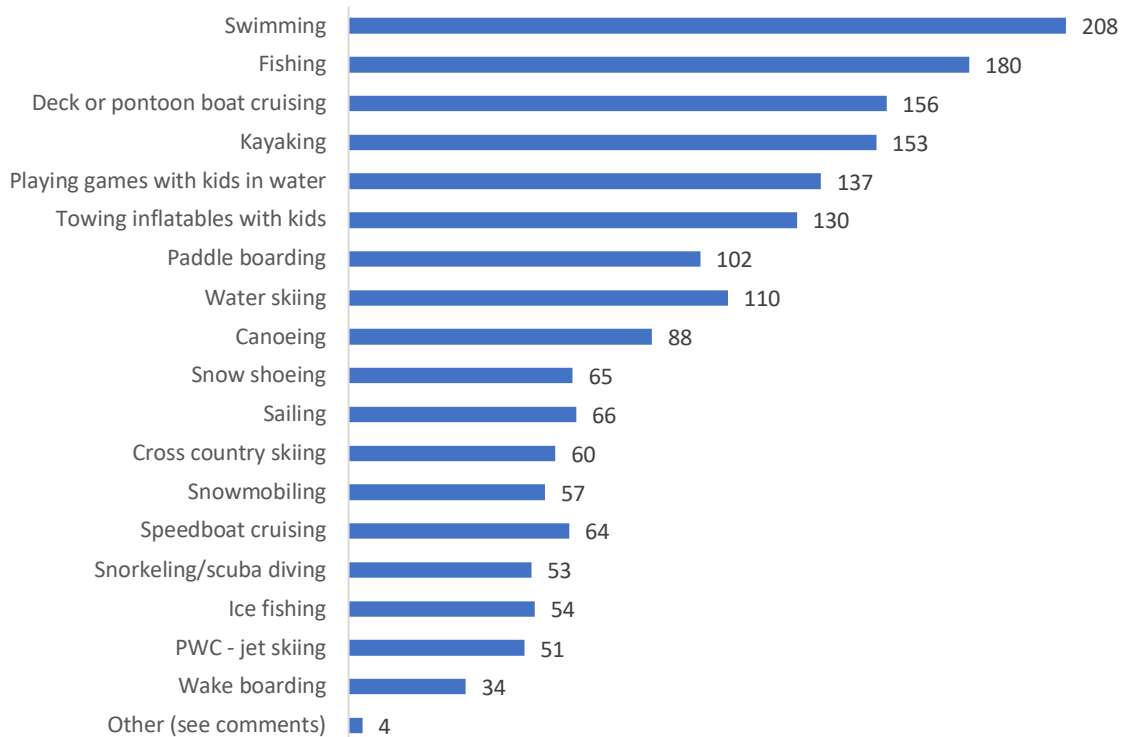
#### 4. For what purpose do you use the lakes and property?



#### 4. For what purpose do you use the lakes and property? (“Other” comments)

- legacy to pass down family generations
- Flee COVID
- Fishing, duh!
- rent year round/fish and canoe from the place...

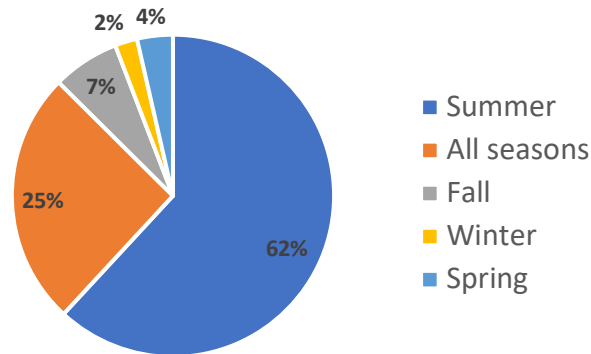
#### 5. In what activities do you/family participate on the lakes?



**5. In what activities do you/family participate on the lakes? (“Other” comments)**

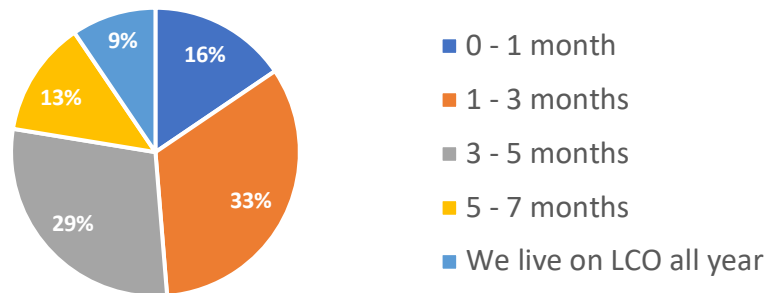
- Hiking
- view the hills above Reserve, practice paddling in big waves for Canadian canoe trips, write history of Winters Point, my wife sketches from the dock, appreciate the values of the Ojibwe, view stars/constellations/study lake ecology
- Golf in area
- Meditation

**6. During which season of the year do you use your property the most?**



223 responses

**7. Approximately how much time do you spend on the Lac Courte Oreilles lakes each year?**



232 responses

**8. Please sum up your feelings for the LCO lakes and what they mean to you.**

- A part of our family history
- A beautiful escape from the metro life. The Northwoods feel makes you relaxed and close to nature. It's therapy.
- A different world, a pleasing escape.
- A place of peace and tranquility, plan to be retirement home someday soon!



- A place of wonderful memories both made and yet to be made.
- A place to BE with nature.
- A place to gather to unwind and relax with family and friends.
- A wonderful place for family and friends to reconnect.
- Beautiful lake. Fishing could be better.
- Beautiful place to get away and share memories.
- Beautiful spring fed clear lake water for swimming and fishing. Great location for spending time on the water or not. Relaxation and peace with friends and family. Building memories for a lifetime.
- Best lake in Hayward area for nature and clean.
- Best lake in the area, most fun and has most potential
- better than high blood pressure pills
- clear water, verity of topography, nice sailing lake
- everything.... we need to stop the phosphorus
- FAMILY
- family fun and peaceful vacation experience
- Family/friend time enjoying the beautiful lake. We have owned our cabin for 4 years not have been coming with friends for 30 plus years.
- For most of our family its home, multiple generations view it as the primary gathering place for our family even though we don't live there year-round.
- Great place to rest and relax
- Going there for the last 66 summers, it's a wonderful experience. We enjoy helping take care of it.
- Good fishing, water quality and location
- Great place for peace and quiet and to relax
- Great place to make memories.
- Great place to relax
- Have always loved our lake home and our beautiful lake. Are upset about the tremendous increase in weeds in front of our dock.
- Having LCO is a privilege that I hope succeeding generations will continue to treasure.
- Heaven on earth
- Home away from home
- I have been coming to LCO for 35 years and in my opinion it's the most beautiful lake I have ever been to. It's something I will be passing on to my son and his family...It is where we all feel the comfort of the lake ....
- I have been on the lake for 36 years, my kids spent summers on the lake, learned to water ski, enjoyed with friends and I, as a distance swimmer, love to swim in the lake. I now have grandkids that will begin a similar experience. It is our home away from home. It is a beautiful place.
- I love the lakes and hate the wind.
- I wish it was quieter.
- I work to live and enjoy the lake. It is the center of our lives.
- Important but the impact of global warming is really evident
- It is like part of the family - it is a treasured part of our lives and heritage.

- It is the one place I can relax and am looking forward to spending more time when I retire. It is incredibly beautiful, and I cherish every day we spend there.
- It is the place where our entire family can meet and spend meaningful time together. Our children have many wonderful memories of time spent at the lake.
- It is where my roots are. It is such a beautiful lake. Even the countryside of Sawyer County feels like a perfect part of the world.
- It's changed considerably since I was a kid, but still a great lake. I guess I never realized how good it was when I was a kid.
- It's my happy place/ Relaxing
- It's a great place to call home
- LCO is an important presence in my past, present, and future. I go there to recreate, relax, and enjoy nature. I love sharing it with others and hope that by collective action, we can preserve the quality of the water and the related environment for future generations.
- LCO is family legacy and we are grateful to have LCO in our lives!
- LCO is where our souls are.
- Life
- Living full time on the lake is a dream come true.
- Love it. My happy place. Have built so many great memories with friends and family. Many of my kids' best memories center around growing up at the cabin.
- More open space, clean water, carefree & free-ranging dogs, peaceful winter, appropriate pace of life. Lots of interesting creatures (eagles, otters, loons, ...)
- Multigeneration getaway
- Our favorite place to be
- Our kids grew up summers on the lake. It's a safe haven home for three generations now.
- Our little piece of heaven
- Our refuge from a chaotic world
- Our Zen place
- Peace and tranquility
- Peaceful beauty
- Positive
- Priceless location for a healthy, peaceful and enjoyable respite.
- Relaxation, pure and simple.
- Special
- Strong feelings for LCO. Want to preserve our lake for future generations.
- Such a pristine lake and surrounding area. We love that we can allow our teenage kids take out jet skis and kayaks and know that the lake is safe if they would need help. We love the surrounding areas for times when we are not on the water. Hiking, kayaking the area rivers, local museums.
- The lake has been a very special place for my family for about 100 years, and we spend time there every year. This lake and the area are very important to our family.
- The lake is my home water...from here I learned to fish, understand water, appreciate my parents' resilience to survive here. This is a story I wrote for the Duluth News Tribune/Sam Cook outdoors about our house on Winters Point: ...our house always smelled of fish. Either my mother was mixing batter for a musky fillet or my father was cleaning fish in the

back room. Located on Winters Point of Lac Courte Oreilles, my parents carved out a living from a little resort. The shoreline was rocky, the drop off too quick, the waters seemed too cold for tourist swimming, but people came for the fishing: musky, walleye, smallmouth bass and the talk of fish. Maps of the lake, marking favorite weed points, rock bars, and hidden logs covered tables, furniture or were stapled to the walls. Dinner conversations debated the correct leader knots, musky rods, hellgrammite hatches, ways to fish crayfish, and the wonderful incoming fronts that brought up the big fish. By age five, I could navigate the fishing pier by myself...throwing hooks with night crawlers towards smallmouth beds...at 8, I could solo the boat with the five horse out to Frenchman's Bar a half mile away...and by 9 my parents taught me to cast and fish the Suick...the wooden plug that both viewed as the only way to catch a big musky. It was heavy so I heaved it...and then in cadence they would count...one, two, three, pull...so I would reel for a three count, then pull it...creating a wounded minnow action...it was a bit much and often dangerous as I zinged the plug left handed in a boat that featured right handers...

...but fishing was always fun: riding the large swells of the lake in a small boat, bouncing off the seat, enjoying the follow of a big fish, sneaking a crayfish on a spin casting rod off the back side for smallies, throwing plugs at boats that passed too close, or that musky fever of playing out a big fish with heart throbbing, hands shaking, and eyes flinching when the fish tailed...and it was cool to wear your canvas fishing pants to town...the ones with the fish blood staining the fabric...

...Eventually, I turned to trout...because I was 21 and the time of Lac Courte Oreilles seemed old. But late in my parents' years I returned, escorted my dad away from the 2003 World Series and we trolled musky plugs on a miserable, wet, windy day. He caught 3 small muskies that day with two his Labradors hopping on the gunwales, nosing the fish when released. Upon our return his wife met him at the door, asked if she needed to "get out the frying pan?" Then she unrolled a lake map and talked musky for hours...I still have that map, the stories, and the Suicks today...

Finally, I've spent a futile quarter of grad school at the U of Montana/Missoula writing a paper entitled on Winters Point: "" Watching Radisson and Groseillers from Winters Point/how the Europeans changed the lake....

- The quiet. The clear water. The history. The activity on the Fourth of July. The nature and wildlife. Angler's Haven too.
- There are no words that can express how I/We feel about this wonderful lake. We are blessed to sit on our back porch/deck each evening and enjoy the changing seasons and beautiful lake.
- They are my families WORLD
- They are my home, and a wonderful place to live.
- They are my peaceful home.
- They are the touchstone of our lives: as we and our family members move around the country for school and work, we can always come back to LCO to engage in outdoor activities and strengthen family ties.
- They are very nice lakes that are great for what my family and friends like to do.
- They mean a lot to our family in regards to a get-away for quality family time.

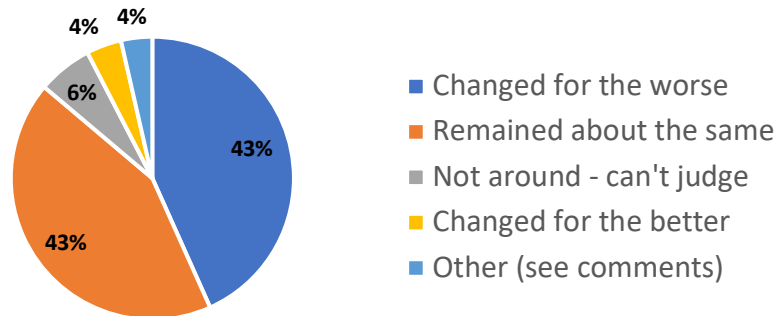
- They provide immense personal value and represent an important water and natural resource for the area we live in.
- This is my main home for relaxing. I love this lake. I see we now have a snail invasion among other issues. I appreciate what COLA is doing to improve the lake.
- Too much jet skiing and wake boarding. Both of these start way to early (7:30 am) and end way to late (well after sunset). Walleye and pan fishing is horrible, I do enjoy the Small Mouth bass fishing. I fish for Bluegills via Kayak on neighboring lakes. Being a lake homeowner is a lot of work, water level is always to high, shoreline gets bermed almost every year. Overall we like the lake even though the above paragraph doesn't indicate it."
- truly an "up north" feel - love the thick woods, clean water, good fishing despite being only 2.5 hours from a major metro area
- Truly Gods country, such beauty
- Unique, clean water quality, special place for family/ friends
- We are blessed to be able to escape the city and find quiet, peace and beauty on the lake. We also associate lake time with family time. As empty nesters, it is where our children go to be with us.
- We are so fortunate to be able to live here
- We feel fortunate to have made a purchase on one of the premier lakes. We are 2 nd generation owners and plan to pass our property on to a 3rd generation. The lake means more to us as we get a little older and are able to use our property and the lake more
- We have been here 66 years, from childhood and now to retirement. This is our refuge where we are restored. The water quality, fish, fowl, wildlife, long-time friends, and quiet is what makes this place so special.
- We have been here many years but have seen a decline in the state of the lake. More invasive species and more shore erosion due to large, relentless wave action. There appears to be no enforcement of laws for boating and boaters have no regard for fishermen. Very rude people using boats nowadays.
- We looked at many lakes in WI and MN and were thrilled with LCO when we found it. Tried to buy two other places on the lake before we were successful. They are unique, and in my opinion more uncrowded, unspoiled, and preferable to many other lakes in the area.
- we love and appreciate and honor the lakes and feel it is a privilege to live here.
- We love it
- We love it here, as does our growing family. All seasons!
- We love LCO!
- We love the beautiful lake and the chance to connect in a lovely area with friends and family. We love the outdoors.
- We love the lake and we see our kids/friends more because of living here
- We love them
- We miss the restaurants that have closed over the years
- We've becomes hooked on our lake home. May make a permanent move soon.
- Wonderful lake great for swimming and water sports
- Wonderful retreat. A great break from big city life. Beautiful lake.
- The lake and cottage are my refuge, my "happy place", well worth the yearly trip from CA.
- Very special place that my family has been coming to and enjoying since my grandfather was born.

- Means a great deal. Family assets, legacy.
- Beautiful, clean lake that has provided us with great memories, and for our family to relax and have nice family time – and we would like it to stay that way.
- Not a far drive from home, daughter lives there year-round, nice neighbors.
- It is where I unwind and enjoy family.
- A place to get together with friends and family. Fishing and water activities.
- A place we enjoy and in 2021 will be permanent home.
- Great family get together. Beautiful clean lake and sunsets.
- Very strong, positive feelings. Heritage and legacy.
- Coming to the shoreline and lake over 70 years. It's second home with best memories.
- We feel so blessed to have our "camp" on Little LCO! It is quiet (usually) and serene. Love that it is still reservation land and its rich history!
- I love the lake and want it to stay clean.
- A deep love for the lake, with fond childhood memories with my parents, great auntie-uncle, our children and now grand children as well as still enjoying its beauty with siblings.
- Memories are priceless. Coming up way before I bought the place. Will pass on to daughter, she loves coming up.
- Beautiful lakes and great people.
- The lake is a place for us to spend time rejuvenating and relaxing.
- Beautiful place.
- My happy place.
- We love getting to the lake. We enjoy family time at the lake. We have made friends at LCO.
- Love it!
- Very upset with COLA trying to control all aspects of the lake!
- The most important investment for the family we have ever made.
- Love the lake – Northwoods.
- Beautiful spot on beautiful lake. Bought the property in 1970. Wonderful family events.
- 200 miles make it possible.
- Legacy for current and future generations. We love being at the lake, and once we retire, will probably spend May-Oct on LCO. Look forward to having grandkids enjoy the lake in the future.
- Lucky to have such a wonderful lake in our family. Mostly appreciative of grandpa Bruce finding it! Very special for the family to create memories.
- We love it up here. My wife, 65 years. Me for 46.
- Great place to get away and spend time with family.
- Beautiful lakes that I love to spend time enjoying.
- Beautiful large lake close to nature. Wonderful place.
- Feelings for the LCO lakes
- God's country. Relax and enjoy peace and quiet.
- We are constantly awed at the beauty of the lake, the clarity of the water, and relaxed pace of the lake traffic and all the friendly people.
- We have loved being on LCO! Buying a cabin on this lake was the best thing we have ever done for our family.

- I feel a great ancestral connection to the lake and forests, knowing my predecessors have walked the same trails and traveled the same waters.
- Beautiful body of water – perfect relaxation spot. Beauty at its best.
- Great place, clear, not too crowded, feels like Up North.
- Relation with the water. WISMO can't be beat. Family and friends time. Sunrises/sunsets and stars.
- Great lake. The lakes provide a unique, precious haven for peaceful vacationing with natural beauty and great variety of recreational activities.
- Indescribable – beautiful, majestic.
- A place of peace and beauty to be shared with those I love.
- They are a place to escape to – to get away from the city – to enjoy the outdoors – to be with family and friends.
- Memories. For me, 66 years. Love the lake itself – so clean compared to others. Fishing could be better, but still pretty good. Wishing that all the time spent on keeping the lake free of invasives will pay off.
- We love having our cabin and sharing time with our friends. Beautiful. Peaceful.
- A place to relax and recreate with friends and family. Enjoy the quiet and solitude.
- Love history with wonderful memories.
- We have our cabin on Little LCO. We have the privacy of a small lake, but still have access to the big lake.
- Love the lake. Wish no swimmers' itch, happens once in a while. Lots of good memories for family.
- Enjoy water sorts and just relaxing in beautiful setting – nature great.
- Very important to us, it is our full time and only residence.
- Grew up on lake, age 7.
- Tranquility, peace, family – has kept our family together.
- Family time, very much concern.
- Welcome getaway.
- Nostalgia – place for family to get together.
- Have been going to LCO for 61 years, special place.
- I cherish the water, woods and the environment of both. Therefore, a major art of my life and I feel strongly protective of them.
- They are a treasure.
- We love the lakes. I would live year-round, but my wife is not ready for that.
- Our property has been in my family since 1912. I certainly have an emotional attachment to the area.
- I've been coming here for 73 years. My mom for 94 years. It is a wonderful, family-oriented place.
- Memories made.
- Very important recreation getaway from city – self-reflection – quiet personal time.
- Can't sum up all they mean to us and our family. We've come to the lakes for decades and the place means a great deal to a great number of family and friends.
- We love LCO!

- place to go to get away from the city and enjoy nature and outdoor recreation.
- Love the lake and area.

**9. Please indicate whether the quality of the lake water off your dock has changed over the last 10 years.**



224 responses

**9. Please indicate whether the quality of the lake water off your dock has changed over the last 10 years. ("Other" comments)**

- About the same with the exception of the curly leaf weeds that I am constantly pulling
- Alarming decrease in water quality. Weeds, weeds, weeds. Bottom sand has been covered with weeds and muck in the last 3 years.
- for this residence the last three years - worse
- I am only there for a few weeks so it's hard to judge.
- Less weed mats, but bottom has changed from sand, to a layer of muck on top of the sand
- the water remains clear but the increase in weeds (aquatic plants) has increased
- too many dead snails and weeds from motorboats
- We also have Muskie Bay behind us. It was getting better but this year it declined.

**10. If the water quality has changed, please describe the change in your own words.**

- A few more weeds, sand softer, a little mucky in spots, more black stuff & snails on bottom, never used to have duck mites, more ducks, water clarity still pretty clear.
- a lot more weeds off the end of the dock and the Chinese shells were a real problem this year.
- Alarming decrease in water quality. Weeds, weeds, weeds. Bottom sand has been replaced with weeds and muck in the last 3 years. Seeing asian milfoil. Our bay and shoreline in Barbertown have been especially compromised.
- Bigger algae blooms. Less clear. More weeds. More turbidity.
- clarity diminished, weeds floating in recently that hadn't seen before
- Clarity is down significantly, LOT more scum and suds
- cloudy
- Cranberry owner on east side of Musky Bay has installed a closed system. The entire Bay has seen a complete transformation from a weed chocked mess each summer to clear water

and brought back recreation, fishing. The entire Bay has completely reversed itself in terms of quality of water.

- Floating and semi-submerged dead plant material
- Formerly crystal-clear water. Now opaque water with green algae floating.
- Horrible growth of weeds from our dock for about 20-30 ft. out. Unpleasant to go through to take a swim. Never had weeds until the last 4-5 years. They get tangled around our boat motor.
- I have been monitoring water quality for many years and have seen clarity deteriorate over the last three years. Maybe two feet.
- I notice the clarity of the water get worse during the summer, notice the growth of algae on the rocks which makes it very difficult to wade past them.
- In the >70 years I've enjoyed LCO I've seen the water clarity diminish, and the lake bottom become more mucky.
- Increased density of submerged vegetation and increased slimy algae growth on rocks and lake bottom. Surface algae "blooms" have also started occurring periodically during warm weather in the last few years.
- It has improved thanks to the efforts of COLA!
- It has remained about the same at our shoreline; we are aware of the excellent and result progress in Musky Bay.
- It is not as clean and clear, and we see more algae and weed growth off our dock.
- It was fairly clear in 2008, not so much today
- It's gotten more weedy and not as clear. Also, lake levels have dropped too much.
- Just a few more plants growing in the hole directly behind our boat lift. Otherwise, still clear, sandy bottom.
- Just this summer we are getting weed growth in the lake near our property. It wasn't noticeable till 2020. It seems to be spreading rapidly.
- Just this summer we are getting weed growth in the lake near our property. It wasn't noticeable till 2020. It seems to be spreading rapidly.
- Lake is still clear. However, there was green slime on the rocks on the shoreline this summer.
- Less clear and water depth lower than ever before
- Less weed mats, but bottom has changed from sand, to a layer of muck on top of the sand, increased snails,
- Loss of vegetation and fish.
- Lost some clarity
- more algae and weeds
- more algae than when I was young
- More algae. Water quality not as clear.
- More aquatic plants, less clear, algae, misc. debris (e.g. plastic beverage containers)
- more aquatic weeds
- more consistent ability to see the bottom
- more green accumulation on the rocks in the water
- More loose weeds floating on windy days.



- more weed growth, green algae on boat hulls, decreased clarity, no frogs, no leeches, fewer minnows
- More weeds dead debris and floating debris in the water by our lakeshore
- More weeds in the water and clarity varies depending on what wind direction is and what is floating on water.
- More weeds, more chlorophyl in the water.
- More weeds. Less clear water
- More weeds. More boat traffic.
- murkier/warmer
- Not as clear
- Not as clear, lots more chiggars
- not as clear, more weed growth
- Not that I can tell. it's still clear and beautiful.
- Our first years had very low water, Musky Bay was almost impossible to navigate, still have many weeds in the bay, but I think it has definitely improved
- Presence of more weeds
- Presence of more weeds
- Rusty brown water, water clarity very poor, algae and weed growth
- See above
- Seeing fewer muskies and more gar fish now. Fighting curly leaf pond weed near our dock. Walleye fishing on our end of the lake is almost nonexistent. I don't see the big leeches that I used to see when I was a kid and the dragon fly hatches seem smaller than I remember as a kid. We also have no more leopard frogs around and bull frogs have declined as well.
- Swimmer's itch/duck lice has gotten worse
- Swimmers itch has gotten worse but that's because new neighbors feed the ducks. Also more Canadian Geese
- The bay has become weed choked. It was always weedy with a soft bottom but now there is a dense mat of weed right to the surface 40 yards out off the shoreline. As a kid I used to watch the Indians in their canoes harvest wild rice. I haven't seen any wild rice since about the late 1980's. My beach shoreline on the main lake is less. I remember we used to pull our aluminum boat up on the sandy shore all summer. Now there isn't room for half the boat. I think some of the water issues of the lake are caused by the billy boy dam and the cranberry farmers around the lake. I also feel that the increased usage and increase of septic systems around the lake leads to the decreased water quality.
- The big change in the last 10 yrs; swimmers itch
- The change is not extreme, but the water is more cloudy, there is more algae, and more aquatic plants.
- The clarity is less and we see more algae and shore foam
- The duck lice/swimmers itch was not an issue when I was a child (I'm 43 now). We see fewer fish near the docks than years ago and fewer aquatic plants.
- The water is not as clear by our dock and there is now weeds where there was none in the past.
- The water isn't as clear and there is a substance that is on some of the rocks.
- There is more green slime algae that clings to the boat lifts and dock posts.

- Usually more algae
- Was not there long enough to see if this has changed
- Water clarity and visibility appears to have diminished when looking into 10 to 12 feet of water. Appears there are more weeds in areas there weren't and more weeds washing up on the beach.
- Water clarity diminished. Weed growth enhanced
- Water clarity has not changed, however, more weeds are present.
- Water clarity is not a good.
- water depth clarity has definitely changed. More algae floaties on the water as well.
- Water quality has changed relative to weed/plant growth.
- we are collecting weeds from Musky Bay as the boats cut them and the weeds are sent our way to collect on the dock.
- We are on Musky bay. It feels like it's still quite mucky. That being said. It's easier to navigate in and out of the lake that it has been. The immediate shoreline habitat seems to be in decent shape, so I hope that means it has improved.
- We do have some weeds, that we have not had the past two years.
- We have CLP off the dock and it's getting worse
- We have more algae and now a lot, we have a lot more wake boats now. Fishing is up and down, up for panfish (for me) and down for predator fish like muskies and walleye
- weeds and like pea soup
- Weeds- increase in thickness and variety. More persistent swimmers itch. Water is still beautifully clear.
- The water seems more murky, less clear.
- Cisco fish seem like they have reduced and in turn the fishing is not as good as when we first got our place 20 years ago. Vegetations seems to be creeping into the water directly in front of the house.
- Much more "green water" including our weeds.
- Less clear, more little green seeds suspended in the water. Softer lake bottom.
- More weeds in the water.
- Can't see the bottom like when a child. No longer can see Center Bar.
- Seems a little less clear, a few more weeds.
- More weeds.
- More weeds shallow than in past.
- May have changed a little. Swimmers' itch is worse.
- On the main lake, about the same. Somewhat worse on the Musky Bay side.
- More weeds, less clarity.
- Swimmers' itch, Softer bottom, less clear water.
- Wish we could get rid of the duck/snail chain to get rid to get rid of duck mites.
- Not as clear.
- More weeds & algae on rocks.
- Not as clear. Not as clean. Fouled by waterfowl.
- Sandy each and clear water.
- Darker, murkier a lot of time, weeds up to the surface in many bays.
- A little more algae.

- Small bits of black rotten vegetation.
- Clearer, less of an algae bloom.
- I see more weeds and algae blooms. It frankly stresses me.
- More weeds off the dock that prevent swimming off the end of the dock.
- Weeds.
- We now have many more weeds and snails. Where did the clams go?
- Way worse, weeds are unreal.
- More snails, dark sludge.
- More weeds near shore and washed up on shore.
- Many more weeds and floating algae in water. Also, prevalence of swimmers' itch.
- Sometimes there is a sediment on bottom – most of the time water quality better.
- More algae.
- Just a few areas of scum when the wind is from Musky Bay.
- 2019 we had some tall weeds at the end of the dock.
- Perhaps a bit cloudier than previously, but there have been changes back and forth.
- LCO is overrun with weeds.
- Too many weeds in Stuckey Bay.
- Our biggest concern is duck lice and swimmer's itch.
- More weeds, more algae, more scum/film on lake bottom.
- We're bothered by duck lice, but other than that, we don't see great changes along our shoreline. We know there are changes elsewhere.
- More weeds.
- More open water, less fishable weeds (low stem density) more non-fishable weeds (high stem density).
- No, the weeds aren't worse! Been here 27 years. Stop trying to control weeds!

#### **11. How would you define "lake water quality"?**

- A measurement of the clarity of the water and the affect thereof by the presence of invasive plant and animal species.
- Above average
- Amazingly clear
- Average and declining. Acceptable for water sports.....
- Can the water support fish, is it healthy for shoreline, and is it appealing for recreation ?
- Clarity
- clarity and absence of invasive species
- Clarity and amount of debris in water.
- clarity and lack of invasive species
- clarity and weeds
- Clarity first, which to me indicates a healthy ecosystem. Too much plant growth decreases clarity.
- Clarity, algae, etc.
- Clarity, algae, temperature, invasive weeds,
- Clarity, aquatic vegetation, fish habitat, and algae bloom frequency

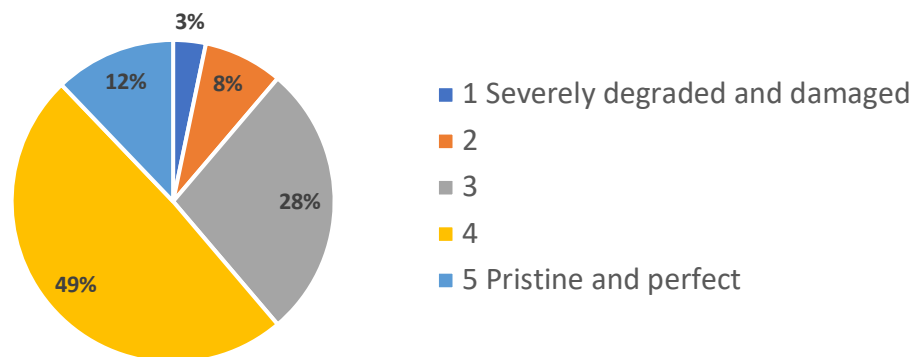
- clarity, fish quality,
- Clarity, health of fish
- Clarity, Purity, low turbidity
- Clarity; weed free.
- clean environment suitable for natural wildlife habitation
- Clean, clear parasite free
- Clean, clear, healthy fish, lots of wildlife.
- Cleanest in the Northwoods area
- cleanliness
- Clear
- Clear but use to be better
- Clear water
- Clear water and free from invasive species.
- Clear water that sustains a healthy fish population.
- Clear water we can swim in relatively weed and chigger free with healthy fisheries
- Clear Water with minimal chemicals,
- Clear water, and sustainable fishery
- Clear water, no weeds or green slime on rocks and docks in the water.
- Clear water, sandy bottom. No bloom in which the water turns green. No muck.
- Clear water. Weed growth. AIS infestation.
- Clear, algae free, sustainable fishery, low P, free of invasives
- clear, few weeds
- clear, no invasive weeds
- Consistent
- declining
- Disappointing.
- Excellent
- Fair. We need to keep improving it.
- From where we are on the lake, the quality is great.
- Good
- Good - not great - Too many invasive plants in Barbertown Bay
- Good - not great
- good except for duck lice
- Good except for swimmer itch.
- good, but it used to be excellent
- good, but not as good as it was 40 years ago
- good, seems like more algae blooms recently though
- Good, the weed growth is increasing which is concerning
- Great
- healthy eco-system for aquatic plants, fish, mammals and people
- How clear
- In our area I think good, but I know other areas having issue with weeds

- It's a combination of water clarity, fish numbers and type, other aquatic species (good and bad), water temperature at various times of the year, dissolved O2 levels, and mix/% of various chemicals in the water e.g. phosphorus
- It's impact on the health of not only natural plants/animals that use the lake, but the entire area ecosystem.
- Lack of weeds/algae
- Lake water quality is the health of the entire lake eco-system. The water itself and the balance of plant life, aquatic animals, birds, and how usable for people's recreation.
- looks good but you can't see phosphorus... didn't like to see the floating fish that yr
- marginal
- Mediocre
- Natural vegetation and wild-life population
- No longer as crystal clear as when we came here.
- Not as clear as it used to be. While I have only been at this residence for the last three years, I have over 50 years of memories with the LCO lakes.
- Not as clear, tremendous weed growth
- not the best... we go to the sand bar more than shoreline fun
- Okay except duck lice
- Pretty good. Very Clear. Musky Bay has a lot of seaweed.
- Quality of water for both human enjoyment and habitat for flora/fauna
- Really good
- Still nice, but changing in clarity
- Still pretty good, swimming still good
- temperature/insect life on the lake bottom/productivity for the species that exist previous to shoreline development of the last 70 years/WWII ear.
- The ability to see through the water to certain depths without seeing discolored water, algae and weeds
- The actual water is good, the CLP is not
- The further from the shore the better, generally it is good, it has been better
- There's more to water quality than just clarity and secchi disc readings.
- To the naked eye, water clarity and presence of native aquatic animals
- Very clear and beautiful
- very good but could be better.
- Very Good. The water is still very nice for all of our water activities.
- very good... but i live near the Madison lakes so my bar is pretty low.
- Visibility and weed growth
- Water chemistry within or better than guidelines, appropriate weed populations and no invasive species.
- Water clarity and weed growth.
- Water clarity, lake bottom, and aquatic plants.
- Water clarity. healthy aquatic vegetation. firm sand bottom.
- Water itself appears ok.
- Water quality has not changed much in my opinion. It remains good.
- We can no longer see lake bottom out in deeper water like we could when we first bought.

- Clarity, amount of seaweed/bottom growth,
- good fishing and nice swimming, limited duck lice
- Clarity, no weeds.
- Clear, no algae.
- Clear, pollution-free.
- Best in Midwest!
- I feel it's very good, always clear.
- Very good.
- Clarity, surface weeds free, sand bottom.
- Clean, clear, no milfoil or seaweed where we have our cabin.
- Clear, clean water. Clear bottom.
- Very good, although green algae appearing on rocks, especially in Spring.
- Very good, clear.
- To the naked eye very good, but it's not always possible to see above some of the issues.
- Clear and clean.
- Primarily clarity.
- Very good. We came from Mississippi!
- Clear water that supports diverse fish life.
- Clarity and odor/weed free.
- The ability to use and enjoy the lake.
- Visibility/water clarity.
- Clear and suitable for humans and all species.
- For the most part, above average except for the algae blooms.
- Clarity of water, invasive species, amount of chemicals in water, fish population.
- OK in some areas, not OK in others.
- Clarity – no blooms in the water.
- The water appears clear but with all the weeds and snails, something has clearly changed. (zone 11)
- How clean it is, and how well it supports aquatic life, ie fish.
- Clarity.
- Good, mostly clear. However, the lake seems to be getting weedier.
- Good.
- Better than some, worse than others.
- When you can see bottom 5' down – no film or scum on top. Clear water.
- Clear, minimum weed growth, native plants, fish flourish.
- Could be clearer. Depends on wind from Musky Bay.
- Clarity.
- Pretty good got swimming and other activities, except swimmer's itch.
- Clear water, no zebra mussels, no invasive weeds.
- Clarity. General lack of algae and weed growth.
- Whether one can swim enjoyable without fear.
- Clarity, weedless.
- Water that is clear.
- Algae-free, or few algae blooms.

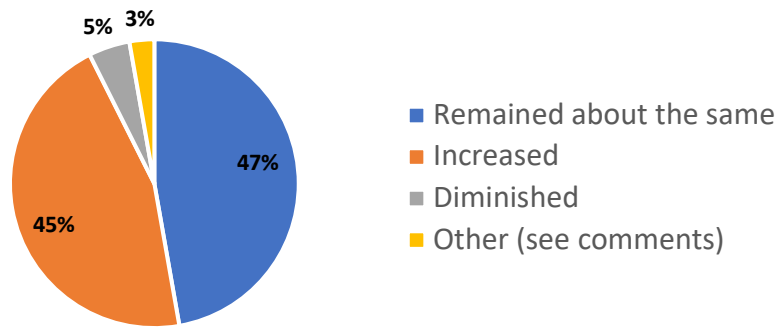
- Water clarity, without weeds that interfere with boating. Not as clear and more weeds.
- Clear and clean.
- Very good.
- Good-excellent clarity.
- Clarity of water, free from algae.
- I still think it's pretty good, but I'm concerned. We have left the bank natural, but wish we had the \$\$ to improve it to even better control erosion. We do a lot of that in our family farm.
- Fair.
- Good where we live, not so in some bays, ie Musky Bay.
- Ability to see down 6-8 feet, as before.
- It was better 50 years ago.
- Clarity – can see the bottom in shallow water.
- Clarity.
- Better than almost all lakes, but endangered.
- Clarity and weeds.
- Clear but healthy.
- Pure, clear, cool.

**12. Please rate the water quality of the LCO lakes near your property.**



214 responses

**13. How have the aquatic plants around your dock or swimming area change over the years?**

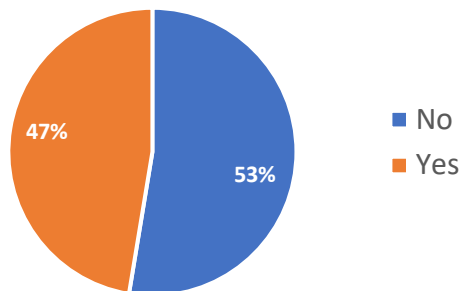


216 responses

**13. How have the aquatic plants around your dock or swimming area change over the years? ("Other" comments)**

- Algal plants on the bottom have increased.
- can't judge- wasn't here
- Don't have any
- Seriously worsened
- They die a mysterious death by our dock.
- We have a sandy shoreline, but notice more weeds washing up on shore.
- Lily pads less and less.
- Plants change over years.
- On a sandbar, so little/no aquatic plants.
- Noticed slight increase from last few years.
- We are lucky so far, not the rest of the lake.
- Previous neighbor, ....., destroyed the good weeds.

**14. In the years that you've used/owned your property, have you noticed a change in the lake**



211 responses



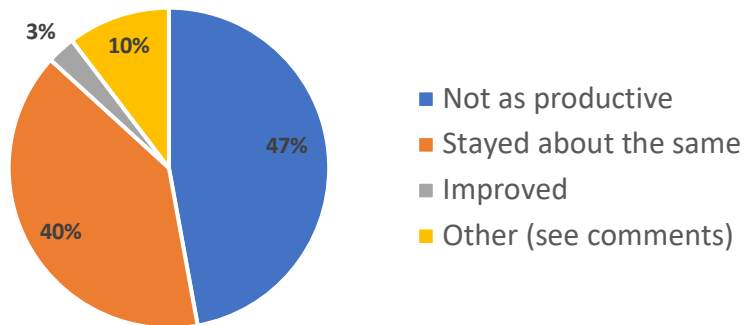
**15. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe in your own words how the lake bottom has changed.**

- A definite increase in the snail population.
- A little more silty.
- A lot more weeds
- Algae coating all the rocks other than those right at the shore where waves move them enough to scour off the slime. Less visibility when snorkeling.
- Becoming more slimy and less sandy
- Crayfish and plants gone.
- Described above
- In 1998, we had sand bottom out 40', now sand is covered with layer of muck,
- In Musky Bay things really changed.
- It has become more mucky.
- I've seen algae spread on lake bottom get worse
- Less clear -more slime on rocks on bottom of lake.
- less shoreline fish/minnows/panfish in the shallows/earlier onset on "algae on the rocks/more "soil" on the lake bottom after rain events/big waves...fewer crayfish
- Lot more snails, growing area of weeds, some new and considerably denser weeds
- Low level growth
- More algae
- more emerging weeds
- More gravel less sand
- More green algae on rocks and lake bottom.
- More mossy like bottom coverage
- more muck, a bit more algae/slime near shoreline
- More slime on the rocks, less "good" weeds
- More sludge
- More snails and weeds
- More weed mats. Also, much more blowing into our shoreline
- more weeds
- more weeds and dead/floating debris from weeds/natural stuff (not garbage)
- more weeds in some areas
- more weeds. Once when scuba diving, observed moss and other green algae floating on the bottom. Fewer clam shells.
- more weed growth and not clear.
- muddier
- muddy and dead vegetation
- musky bay; more weeds, more silt. main lake; softer sand, higher water levels
- No more fresh-water clams. Cloudy water. Enhanced weed growth
- sand bottom areas have become softer---less sandy
- Sedimentation / silt at the end of my dock seems to be higher this year than in the past. I have about 4" of clear water before the silt starts.
- seeing more algae mats

- Silt/organic debris seems to be increasing lowering thickness of water column at dock.
- Slight degradation so far, but aquatic plants headed our way.
- The bottom has become more “murky” less defined sandy bottom
- The bottom has so many weeds, slime on the rocks which makes it very dangerous, slimy bottom
- the build-up of dead aquatic material is concerning
- There is more algy or green slime on rocks than there was thirty-five years ago when I started coming and enjoying this lake.
- There is more grime/ algae on the rocks, especially near shore.
- There used to be more aquatic plants
- There’s more mushy, silty matter on the lake bottom in front of our place than there used to be. We also see more green mossy material on the lake bottom.
- Thick weeds that were not there earlier.
- Too many invasive plants which has too much dead and dying plants covering up the Sandy bottom.
- Total weeds
- Typically, it is the mostly same by our dock. However, when there is a strong westerly wind it blows in significant debris and weeds. This did not happen in the past.
- Used to be clean and sandy. Now it's mucky and covered with weeds.
- Was all sand, no weeds within 100 ft of shore (shallow, less than 5' deep.) Now, all weeds and muck (muddy).
- We are on the sand beach with a sand bottom. The bottom seems slightly softer, with a few more bottom weeds.
- Weedy with dead snails on the bottom.
- Well 30-40 years ago it was much more natural, less muck/phosphorous than there was in the years after.
- In some places, the bottom is more “squishy”.
- Appears to have more weeds and mossy bottom.
- More aquatic plants.
- Muddy, more weeds.
- Sand is mushier.
- Significantly more vegetative growth/plants/weeds.
- Slightly softer.
- We own lake shore on the Bay and main lake. The Bay has gotten very weedy.
- Slightly more vegetation.
- Muckier.
- Many more unwelcome plants.
- Often have dark particles and sticks on lake bottom.
- It used to be sandy for a long way out and the rocks near shoreline more clean. Now I see more debris on the bottom and most rocks have an algae film.
- Not as clear.
- Green algae on rocks.
- In Barbertown Bay we are surrounded by pine trees and seem to have more stuff on the lake floor, some from plant growth that dies each winter.

- Weedy.
- Weeds and snails.
- Weeds are taking over.
- More black sludge.
- More weeds.
- Musky Bay is much thicker with weeds.
- More weeds and slime on rocks.
- More algae or soft stuff on the rocks and sand. Weeds growing close to the shore from the drop off.
- More muck.
- More plant life on lake bottom – Bottom is becoming muddier.
- More snails.
- More sediment at certain times of the year. Better and more clarity.
- A scum or film has appeared on the bottom.
- More foliage in parts.
- As weeds were reduced in Musky Bay, more muck showed up on my beach in Musky Bay, and my children’s property in the west basin.

**16. If you fish the LCO lakes, has fishing changed?**



174 responses

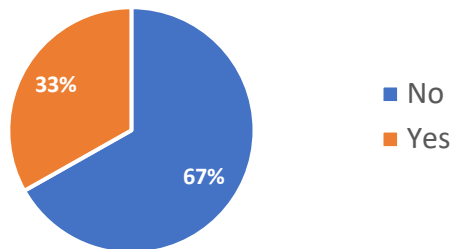
**16. If you fish the LCO lakes, has fishing changed? (“Other” comments)**

- Not a fisherman.
- Are there fish in this lake?
- do not fish often
- Don't fish enough to notice.
- Don't fish
- Have not been there long enough to answer this question
- I don't fish
- I don't do a lot of fishing but have noticed fewer fish near the docks.
- improved in the last few years...few small muskies that fit the 20-30 inch range that show a growing fishing opportunity....a lot/too many? smallmouth bass that seem to be aggressive

feeders that may or may not hurt the musky population/many people report catching more large mouth bass...which may indicate the increase in water temperature....

- Musky down, all others up
- that's why we don't fish anymore
- This past winter, the crappie and bluegill bite was almost non-existent. The same goes for northerns. It was very slow. Prior year the action was fast until later in the season. Walleye fishing this year was great most of the time.
- up for some species like sunfish, down for others like muskies and walleye
- I feel it has come under increased fishing pressure.
- Primary species targeted, crappie fishing is excellent; walleye
- Indians spear the walleyes. DNR killed the northerns.
- Not as many northern pike or crappies.
- Bass catch limits make fishing unworthwhile.
- Best year was 2013 with 3.47 game fish caught/hour. 2017 worst, with 0.52 game fish/hr. When you kill the weeds and remove the fish, it doesn't get better.

**17. If you boat on either of the LCO lakes, have you noticed a change in your ability to navigate the lake because of dense, underwater plant growth?**



214 responses

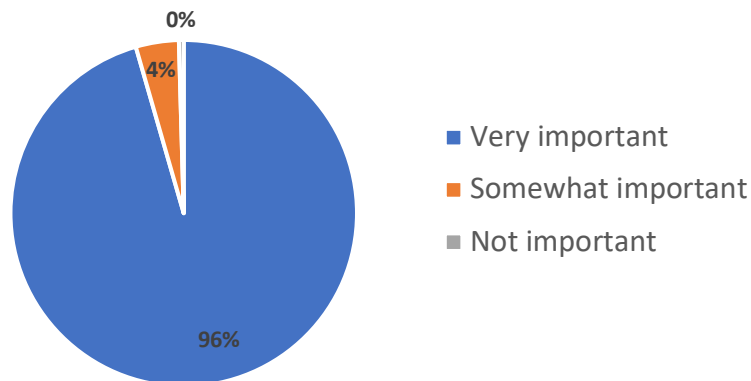
**18. If your answer to the previous question was "Yes," please describe where (lake zone) and how your navigation was impeded by excessive plant growth.**

- Barbertown Bay
- Barbertown Bay. Weeds entangled in boat motor starting right at our boat lift.
- Both Musky Bay and Stucky Bay seem to have de ser weed mats. Also, Little LCO has considerably more weeds just after you enter the lake from big LCO than in the past.
- Depends on season, and it occurs in multiple spots.
- I think it's easier to get in/out of Musky bay than it has been.
- I've noticed Patterson Bar is weeds to 15 feet. and little lco is bad weeds by july
- in many of the smaller bays ie Stuckey, Barber Town and Muskie Bay, the weed growth and weed mats are at the surface. Either stay our completely or be prepared to clear your prop repeatedly.
- In our area increased weed beds in Little LCO
- Little LCO

- Many areas within zone 2
- More weeds in other areas and lower water depths making it much more difficult
- Mouth of Musky Bay has weeds to the surface, 20 years ago it was a gravel bar with limited grass at the very bottom. Weeds now extend a couple of 100 yards out into the West Basin.
- Musky Bay
- Musky Bay has increased weed growth
- Musky bay heavy weeds
- Musky Bay is impacted.
- Musky Bay is particularly problematic, but since we have only been owners of our cabin for three years, we can't judge if it's better or worse now.
- Musky Bay stinks, impossible to fish now
- Musky Bay, Barbertown Bay, Anchor bay
- Musky Bay, in front of Angler's
- Musky Bay. Stuckey Bay. Musky Bay much better since weed eradication
- Not as much a problem now, but in the past there were areas I ended up avoiding.
- only in Musky Bay
- Sunset Bay extremely bad for plant growth.
- We avoid the shallow areas when we boat to avoid spreading invasive species by cutting into them. However, I see other boaters driving through thick weeds in the shallows and then I see lots of plant material washing up on beaches afterwards.
- We stay mainly in mid-section of lake so not many weeds
- weed presence in musky bay
- weeds growing to the surface are thick at the end of our dock
- When kayaking, plants get caught in the rudder. Have noticed in several zones, especially 8. I am aware that some of the vegetation is normal and that we do not need to or want to eliminate it.
- Zone 2
- Zone 2, increased fouling of propellers. Thicker weed growth closer to the surface.
- zones 1,2,3&8 - frequent propeller snarling / wrapping (especially from dock)
- Zones 8-9 are off limits to all who use our boats. We don't want to spread weed growth.
- We stay out of places like Musky Bay.
- 8, 9, 6, 3, 2 - I have to reverse to remove invasives off the propellor.
- Musky Bay and Stuckey Bays / Lily pads.
- Zone 8 – bad.
- Musky Bay weeds get caught in propellor. Hard to paddle the canoe...
- In my zone it has not been problematic. However, I wanted to add that in
- Musky Bay we used to be able to motor in, but that is now almost impossible.
- Weeds in Barbertown Bay.
- Less open water.
- Small pond behind the old Moccasin Lodge is lily pads and milfoil – bogs, people fishing during spawning in spring. 4 years ago, it was clear – big boats dragged in weeds.
- Zone 8 can be a problem. Weeds collect on prop.
- Stuckey Bay – there is some ugly stuff growing in this area.
- More weeds throughout lake in different sections.

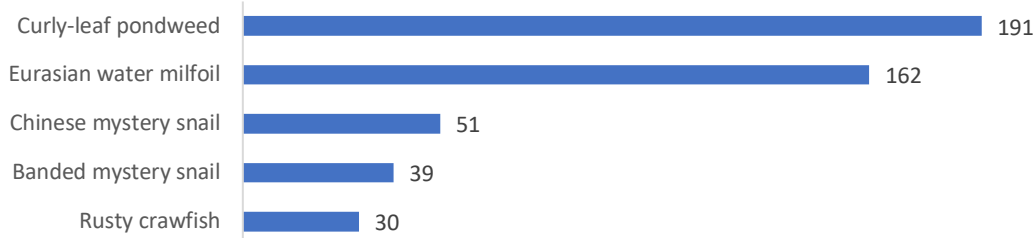
- 6, 8, 9 – more plants in prop.
- Zone 6 – Dense plant growth.
- 9, 8, 6, 5
- Musky Bay
- Main lake is mostly good. Musky Bay is improving, but still has thick weeds in many places – zone 8.
- More weeds in Stuckey Bay east shore.
- Very hard to navigate Musky Bay.
- We avoid Musky Bay.
- Musky Bay was deplorable. Now, improved.
- Musky Bay.
- Little LCO near Bill Boy bridge.
- Musky Bay, Barbertown and Stuckey Bay – more weed growth. Significantly noticeable in zone 7.
- Musky Bay zone 8.
- The creek running between LCO and Grindstone is not easily passable as it once was. The mouth of Anchor Bay could be dredged to push a better opening.
- 1, 8. The weeds are so thick that it's impossible to get a boat through it.
- Some years Musky Bay is very thick with weeds from half-way deep to the back.
- Constantly have to remove weeds from the boat motor. Also getting near Impossible to “troll” for fish.

**19. How important is lake water quality to your enjoyment and use of your property?**



224 responses

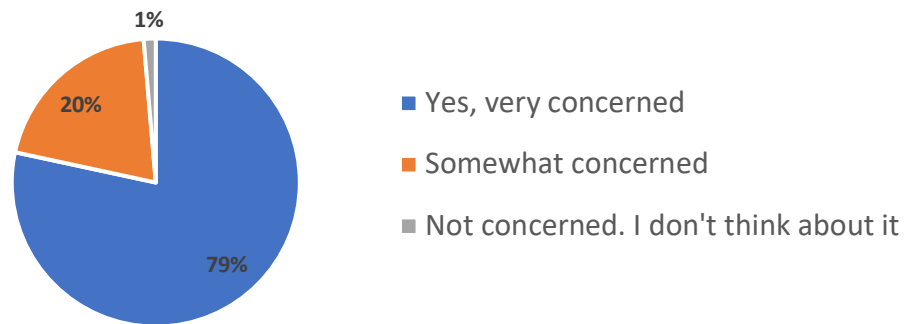
**20. Are you aware that the following aquatic invasive species are present in either of the LCO lakes?**



**20. Are you aware that the following aquatic invasive species are present in either of the LCO lakes? (comments)**

- Was just recently aware by COLA of snail and crawfish. Actually saw one when we were going through the muck at few weeks ago.
- I hope zebra mussels have not arrived, but I fear they might
- snails, but not sure which type
- I know there are invasive species, but I don't know their names.
- Not aware of any
- Not familiar with these classifications

**21. Does it concern you that aquatic invasive species are present in the lakes?**



222 responses

**22. How are you personally affected by aquatic invasive species?**

- Abundant weeds limit areas that I can fish in Musky Bay.
- again... avoid using our shoreline... prefer sand bar
- AIS should be prevented and eliminated. I try to help with both.
- Appears to affect fishing production.
- Before the control of Curly Leaf, Musky Bay was unusable, now it is a lot better.
- change the ecosystem, like eating fish eggs

- CLP in front of my property
- Concerned for the future of LCO
- curly leaf in the bay is more dense than native plants
- Dislike weeds. They connote warmer water
- Effects the fishing
- Fear of reducing our lake quality
- Fishing
- Hampers our enjoyment of the lake
- Has not affected me
- Have not been affected so far
- haven't seen any
- Haven't been personally affected.
- Haven't been personally affected.
- Haven't observed at my end
- I am not personally affected near our docks, but I am concerned for the health of the lakes as a whole.
- I am not, and in some cases aquatic invasive species will improve the quality of fish habitat, thus making LCO a more desirable fishing lake.
- I believe the chemicals being used to fight them are killing good weeds as well and ruining fish habitat.
- I don't spend much time on the water; I don't like to see water quality degraded, but I probably wouldn't notice on my own.
- I have seen snails, not sure what kind, we get a lot of weeds drifting into our frontage in Musky Bay
- I spent several hours on two separate days, pulling curly leaf pond weeds from a dense mat near our dock this past spring. I was able to get just about all of it , including the roots, but I will see how successful I was next spring. I also have neighbors who are removing native weeds because they don't know the difference even though I try showing them.
- I'm not
- If it gets bad, it might affect our waterfront area.
- If the water quality suffers in the lake, that affect my use and enjoyment of the lake.
- impacts fishing and recreational use of some parts of the lakes
- increased weeds off our dock
- It is all over in Musky Bay and when boats cut it down it floats to the shore.
- It makes me sad to see our natural world negatively affected by human activity.
- It's not visible to me how I'm impacted by the invasive species. Rather, I feel what is more likely impacting our lakes is the phosphorous run off from the cranberry bogs and homeowners.
- It's hard to see what the cranberry growers are allowed to get away with
- Just by the fear it will take over from the native vegetation and negatively affect the lake quality.
- just the idea of increased pollution is a great concern
- Lake access and usability
- Lake quality and property value

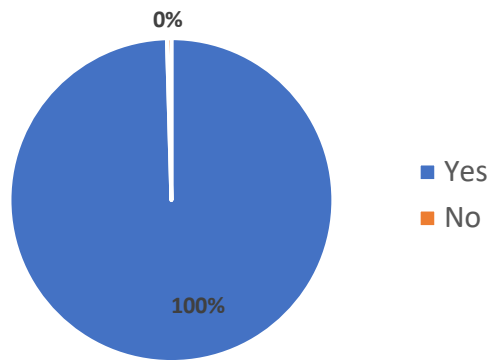


- Limits our swimming by our dock area - too many invasive species
- minimal
- More difficult to swim and fish
- Negative impacts to wildlife in the lake
- No
- None that I am aware of
- Not
- Not able to access Musky Bay due to weeds
- not as yet
- Not at all.
- Not directly affected yet, but that will change if they remain unchecked.
- Not much yet
- not personally affected as they are not on our shore area
- Not significantly, but lots more of the snail shells washing up.
- Not yet but it's headed our way
- Not yet.
- NOT. Boats only on lco.
- Only thinking about what the next generations will experience.
- Picking up the shoreline and time spent searching our area for problems
- Property values decrease if allowed to flourish
- Reduced quality of fishing.
- Sad to see our clear water changing to cloudy.
- see previous answers
- Since I feed the ducks, I am concerned about 'duck itch' parasite, while the snail increase is significant, I am most worried about zebra mussels which I understand are not in the lake yet. I know they were in White Fish, one of our feeder lakes.
- snails seem to be a host for "duck itch"
- Some weeds have washed up on the shore by our cabin.
- spawning of musky: let's face it: Lac Courte Oreilles is a unique lake with large musky/deep waters...not only in the state, but one has to view it as unique in the world...
- Swimmers itch from snails.
- swimming, walking in the lake by the cabin, shallow water cruising on pontoon
- taking over our bay and waterfront
- the weeds are a problem with our motor and the shells make it difficult to walk in the sand because they hurt
- They are in several areas of our bay and we think impacts the growth of other aquatic weeds.
- They can damage or eliminate the populations of competing native plants and animals which are important to the overall lake health.
- They don't interfere with my enjoyment of the lake
- They spread
- very seldom go swimming
- Water quality, more weeds means more maintenance if swim area and some boating issues.
- We are aware of it and are concerned about it moving closer to our area.

- We had more snail shells on our shoreline.
- We have been fighting a patch of Curly Leaf off our dock and we get Milfoil and curly leaf drifting in on our shore
- We like to swim and do water sports. Weeds & lake bottom decrease enjoyment
- we're not
- Weed growth will affect our use of the lake.
- Well, I live on Musky Bay. I think that is all that needs to be said.
- Worried about the future
- Yes. CLP
- I've gotten "duck lice" once, but many family members are hesitant to swim because of it.
- we are concerned about overall health of the lake, and invasive species can compromise this.
- It improves the fishing!
- I am concerned for the lakes' future for our children and grandchildren.
- Lots of snails – not sure what kind.
- Many more snails.
- Not personally affected; intellectually affected if so informed by experts (COLA) of negative effects.
- So far, not at all.
- Weeds in the bay.
- I am aware that if one or more areas of the lake are affected, it is easily transmitted to other areas.
- Not affected at this time.
- Not personally affected.
- Affected very little.
- Currently not much other than swimming area.
- Concern about water quality.
- Too many snails (zone 3) visible curly leaf pondweed, swimmers' itch.
- Deters people from wanting to get into the water.
- Hard to swim.
- Northerns were killed – northern habitat destroyed.
- I want the lake to remain pristine and be able to support native fishes as possible.
- I am not affected.
- No.
- No effect yet.
- Personal enjoyment and land value affected.
- Swimmers' itch, sharp shells on our lake bottom where we swim.
- Use lake less – not as inviting.
- Cannot use the shore area for swimming, floating.
- Not yet personally affected.
- Not directly right now, but fear bad effects of all these.
- I know the invasive species will continue to take over the lake unless stopped.
- Affects overall lake health. Affects fish, ducks, turtles and all wildlife using and needing the lakes.

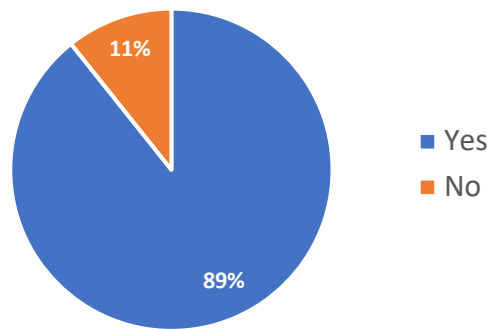
- Not.
- Ugly snails on beach. Don't like to feel the weeds, but does not make me leave the water.
- None visible in our area. Robs natural resources from native species. Any harm to the natural plants and animals that I appreciate in the area upsets me.
- No. More weeds.
- N/A. Fishing diminished.
- Swimmers' itch.
- Uncontrolled weed growth interferes with boating and swimming.
- Don't know how they can be controlled.
- Luckily, not too much, but I don't want to be. If in one place, it will spread. Wish
- I knew more about the snails and crawfish.
- Do not seem to be as yet.
- Not at all.
- Not yet.
- I'm wondering I the increase in snails is affecting the increase in swimmers' itch?
- Restricts boating in certain areas of the lake.
- Not personally where we are, but definitely affects us personally in total.
- Somewhat inconvenient. Less of a problem than inconsiderate oaters (mainly high-powered bass oats and jet skis).
- Not affected, but concerned.
- Long term viability of the lake and fishery for future generations.
- Currently, there are no AIS in front of our property, but if not treated or removed, it is only a matter of time until there is. Once present, swimming, boating etc. will be negatively affected.

**23. Are you aware of COLA (Courte Oreilles Lakes Association)?**



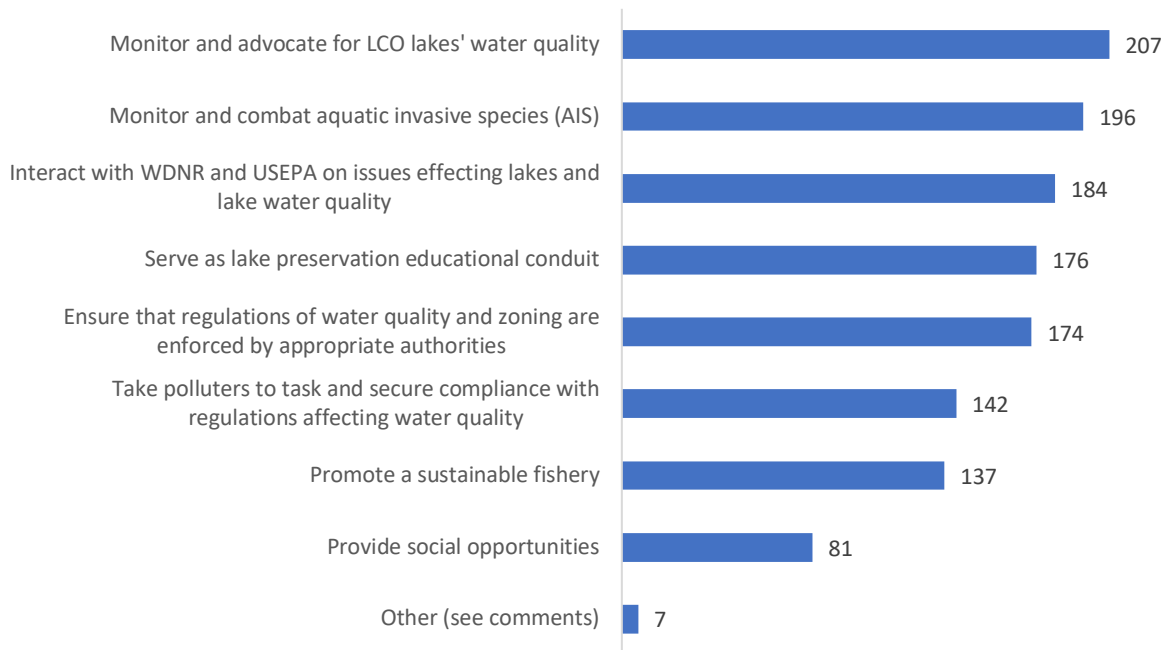
227 responses

**24. Are you currently a member of COLA?**



224 responses

**25. If you are aware of COLA, how would you describe its purposes?**



**25. If are aware of COLA, how would you describe its purposes? (“Other” comments)**

- Communication
- encourage all groups of people/rich(patricians and poor plebeians) to use and enjoy the lake....COLA lacks a good base of people who use the lake but don't get involved in the decisions/ideas to help the lake....as a member of COLA I am part of that problem, right now the lake is highly regarded as a fishery for walleye/bass/ice fishing....need to involve these people....
- shoreline preservation and phosphorus monitoring

- Sue everyone they can!!
- Not sure.
- Over regulation and opinionated personnel
- Stick their nose in other people's business.

## 26. What are your perceptions of COLA?

- Very good
- a good advocate and steward of the lake
- A great well run organization with goals.
- A group that informs the lake homeowners and observes changes in LOC.
- a hard-working and dedicated group.
- A neat organization
- A very effective organization.
- A very valuable entity
- Active
- active, passionate, aggressive (in a good way)
- An exceptional organization, we are lucky to have so many dedicated people.
- Arrogant, combative, and angry. Not good representation for me.
- As our advocate for the condition of the lake. Question whether every homeowner receives information, or just members of COLA.
- COLA has been effective and doing an excellent job to protect the lake.
- "COLA is a very effective organization which we have always supported financially. We have told neighbors about the good work COLA does, pointed out that our bay has invasive plants, and encouraged them to support COLA and the foundation.
- Thank you for all you are trying to do to improve our lake and stop invasive species in our bay. "
- dedicated people, history of being confrontational
- Doing a good educational job and taking action to maintain lake quality.
- Doing what is necessary to be a good steward for the quality of the lake.
- Excellent
- excellent involved concerned organization!
- Excellent leadership in saving LCO
- Excellent! And we appreciate the work they do
- Extremely positive. This is one of the few lakes associations that focuses on the watershed and lake water quality. So many such associations seem to mainly focus on summer social events. We are all here — we hope — because of this beautiful lake. COLA's work to preserve our lake is remarkable.
- Friendly, hard-working, reliable.
- Good
- good advocate
- Good to have this group representing the issues.
- Good. Just want my lake frontage to be what it was and not all the rusty brown water that you can't see through and to get rid of the slime and abundance of weeds

- Grateful for its efforts on behalf of the lakes
- Great group thanks to amazing volunteers.
- Great organization
- Great organization. Very appreciative of all the work that is done on our behalf. .
- great organization/does great work for the lake/as stated above needs all people not just the summer residents to get involved/active/well not many can financially afford the large sums needed this group can be active in pursuing goals to legislatures...need to involve the ice fisherman/duck hunters/....need to work with land trusts/now Land Mark to preserve the few open shorelines...realize that Little Couderay is getting hammered with development which will affect the rice in Billy Boy/any wildness left to the lake...contain the great work with the LCO tribe....
- Great! I like the influence on policy approach, the proactive management of the lake, the relative with the Ojibwe and the education of the citizens.
- Group trying to preserve the lake
- I am thankful for all of the hard work done by board members and volunteers. Without COLA, the lake quality would surely deteriorate at a faster rate.
- I am very impressed and appreciate all of the hard work COLA does.
- I enthusiastically support COLA
- I like the concept of the lake association, but I really don't see it as an "authority" based organization because of how lax the overall lake quality has been diminished. I see very few things being done to stem the abuses that I see happening in regard to boaters, the decline of the fishery, and I think the amount of money that people now seem to have (judging from the expensive boats I see) gives them the perception that they are entitled to use the lake any way they want and to heck with anyone else.
- I think it does a good job or trying to protect the lake and educate it's residents.
- I think they are doing a good job
- I think they do an awesome job at protecting the lake.
- improving view this year
- In favor
- In transition
- It tries its best - but it is a volunteer organization without enough volunteers or other forms of support. People need to recognize how close the LCO lakes are to a tipping point, and COLA is struggling to make the message clear to all.
- It's a necessary organization.
- It's a very good organization with too few volunteers.
- Just joined, no input at this time.
- Keep up the great work. You have our financial support.
- Lake property owners concerned and trying to keep our lake in good condition.
- lake would greatly diminish without cola's persistence
- Let's make the lake better is all areas
- Liberal activists. Good mission statement, bad actions.
- Moody grumpy people that want to control the lake

- My perceptions are that the organization is not really out for the benefit of the lake or the fish that call it home. You are more concerned about placing blame on local farmers for what are and have always been weedy areas of the lake.
- need to raise dues to hire water quality specialist
- "Not very good. I see signs on the lake ""We Support COLA"", and it was on a perfectly manicured lawn all the way to the lake shore on a long shoreline. Other properties have done nothing to install rip rap and at least somewhat follow the DNR shoreline guidelines. I see COLA killing tons of vegetation in Musky Bay only to have it float out into the main basin of the lake, affecting other areas. Furthermore, the last thing I want is more regulations. It's apparent that not everyone wants to follow them, and perhaps think that they don't apply to them.
- I also think your Mission Statement is seriously flawed. Specifically the part, ""while respecting the interests of property owners and the rights of the general public"". First and foremost, the property owners have rights, too, and might I point out, that they (we) pay the taxes. Yes, the general public has rights also, but the statement seems to imply that the general public has rights and the property owners have ""interests"" ... This is a main reason why I am no longer a member of COLA. As property owners, our property rights should be upheld with the highest regard. It's already bad enough that I cannot vote on the lake and shoreline issues, primarily because I am technically a non-resident without voting rights. Though the State is very happy to tax me on my property and take my money, even though I have no voting ability to support or deny any particular issue... Talk about taxation without representation! Perhaps COLA could care a little more about that than my ""interests as a property owner"".
- I love this lake and the surrounding area. So much so, that within 3-5 years, my wife and I will be full time residents with the ability to vote. And, for what it's worth, I applaud the members and directors of COLA for their willingness to get involved and to try to improve/maintain the lake for generations to come. I just think you are going about it in the wrong way."
- Not very positive. A few years ago, I attended a couple meetings and they are not advocate for people that want to utilize the lake better instead of people that want to go back 50 years to just canoe and kayak around. They are not positive on wake surf boats or Jetske's. Are used to be a big thunder of the foundation and have pulled any funding due to the lack of response to inquiries about wake surfing and Sharon reports with Kohler about the actual damage to Shoreline from scientific studies and not just guesses by the board
- Ok
- ok, don't like the fight between it and the foundation.
- Overall, positive. I do hear from other people misperceptions of COLA.
- overwhelmingly positive
- Positive
- Positive organization with a good mission.
- positive--but not all my friends feel that way.
- Private citizens spending their own time preserving quality of the lake
- Proactive group, very dedicated to LCO
- Really strong organization and advocate for the health of the lake. Not just homeowners but making sure the lake is healthy for all to enjoy long term.

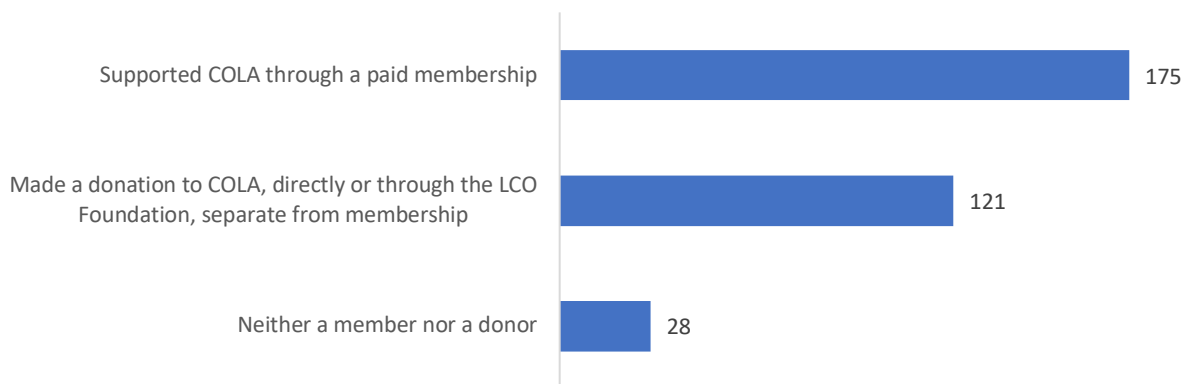
- Since we have been owners, we have been very impressed with COLA as an effective advocacy and educational organization.
- Somewhat affective
- Somewhat positive
- They are an ally in preserving and protecting our lake.
- They are great and I appreciate them doing this
- They do an excellent job of trying to keep the lakes clean and free of weeds.
- They do great work for the lake and its residents
- Think of group more as educational and an advocate to government. Do not see them as an enforcer or one to go after bad lake landowners.
- This lake would be nothing like it is if it were not for the efforts of COLA. The majority of people on this lake or those who come and enjoy it take it for granted. COLA has worked tirelessly for preserving this important eco system.
- Trying hard but progress is slow.
- Valuable.
- very effective organization, proud of how in interacts with other groups for the good of LCO
- very favorable
- Very good!
- Very informative
- Very Positive
- very positive and crucial role in lake quality
- Very positive group, but realize the socio-political obstacles and fight involved
- very positive! That Kevin Horrocks is a hunk.
- Very proactive.
- Very worthwhile and needed organization
- Very worthwhile organization. Thanks
- Volunteer organization and must try to deal with more issues than have the manpower to handle. Needs additional funding to pursue the many initiatives it has to deal with.
- We appreciate the effort made in a very difficult area of work. It must be discouraging at times. But COLA keeps up the effort.
- We are very lucky to have a group of committed and competent individuals to care for our beautiful lake.
- We like that they are watching out for the quality of the lake
- While I applaud their efforts in many cases, I have not been happy with some of the tactics, i.e. suing farmers
- Working hard for all that live on and use the lake.
- An organization to inform, educate and care for lake quality.
- valuable advocate for the health of the lakes
- Great. Where would our lake be without it?
- The best lake association I've seen.
- Great organization.
- Good.
- Just joined.
- Excellent.



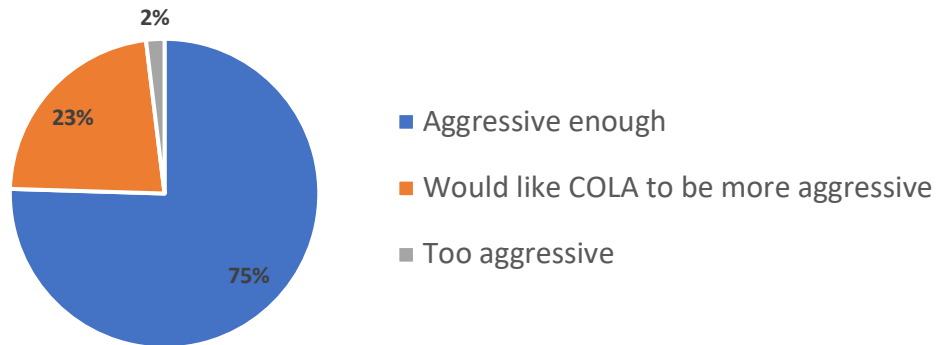
- Very good job.
- Sometimes they overstep the purpose.
- Very worthwhile organization.
- Great organization to promote betterment of lake quality.
- Positive.
- Those with high end properties seem to want to limit the smaller owners.
- I appreciate the passion and persistence to enhance LCO that COLA consistently provides. Thank you!
- Good stewards of the lake.
- Excellent defender of the lakes
- Does good.
- Strong environmentalists. No regard for economic effect.
- They have amazed me over the years at their dogged persistence to caring for the lake. Kudos to all of you and those in the past.
- Very positive.
- Good intentions but has a tough job.
- A strong, knowledgeable group of people working to keep the lake healthy.
- Good, productive.
- We appreciate all their positive efforts!
- Hard-working professionals.
- Doing a reasonable job to keep lake clean.
- Good organization.
- Good advocacy – limited decision rights.
- Very active organization that is working to maintain/improve LCO water quality.
- Positive. Important. Effective.
- How do I get a sign?
- An essential organization.
- Impressed by the proactive approach by COLA.
- COLA has become proactive over the last few years.
- It does not represent the average homeowner. They are out of touch with what people expect from one of the largest lakes in Northern WI.
- I'm very grateful to COLA and its diligent, hard-working officers and many members.
- To keep the water clean and free of damaging weeds to the water.
- Needed.
- They believe they should control all aspects of the lake. Will not support COLA.
- Excellent.
- Well-meaning organization and people.
- Excellent organization of dedicated people.
- An effective voice for owners and increasing enactment.
- Positive.
- Helping to protect our water enjoyment.
- Well-meaning organization. Disagree with the weed control program of past years.
- Will be interesting to see if you use the "weed harvester" appropriately or go bonkers with it!

- Good advocate for the lake.
- Improving. I dropped my membership when COLA started going after individual families. Have reinstated it.
- Excellent organization which I fully support.
- #1 lake association.
- Enjoy the updates in the newsletters. Have been supporting COLA for many, many years.
- I like it.
- A necessary entity for the preservation of water quality of the lake.
- COLA tries hard but is seriously outgunned by malevolent financial interests.
- Absolutely necessary to accomplish all the above and hold DNR feet to the fire to control cranberry farmers' pollution.
- Very positive perception. You have done a remarkable job against difficult obstacles to "save the lakes".
- We appreciate everything you do.
- Useful.
- Terrific organization with very hard workers.
- Good.
- I appreciate and applaud their efforts to preserve our environment.
- I/we will have to join this year.
- Get dollars but can't do much about weeds.
- Active environmentalists.
- Keep after cranberry farmers and DNR = holding ponds.
- Organization with the mission to keep the lakes enjoyable for the long term.

**27. How have you supported COLA in the past two years?**

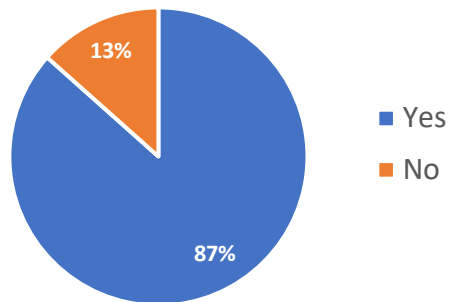


**28. If you're concerned about aquatic invasive species, do you feel COLA, as your lake association, is being aggressive enough in addressing the issue?**



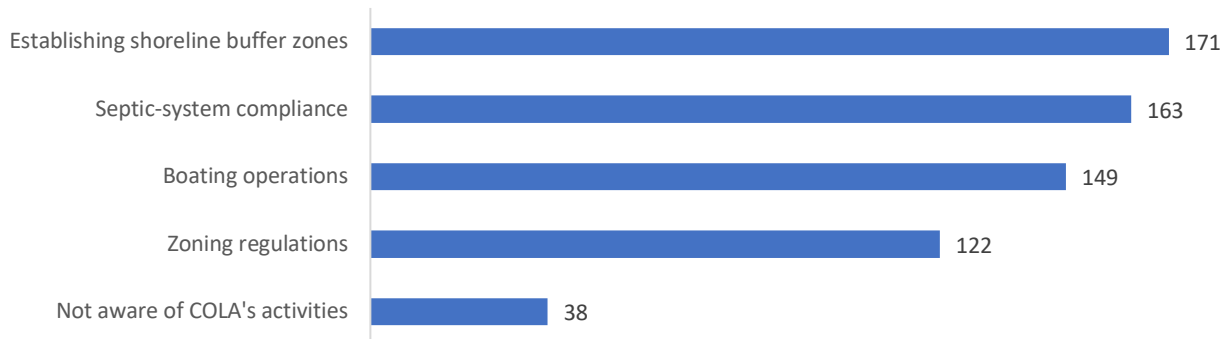
208 responses

**29. Are you aware that the LCO lakes are part of an ongoing treatment program to combat aquatic invasive species and that money is being spent to do so?**

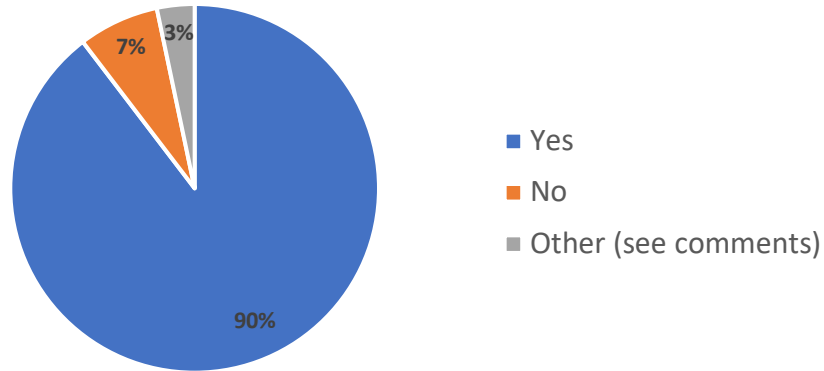


231 responses

**30. Beyond fighting invasive species, are you aware that COLA has been actively involved with proper authorities and experts in upholding:**



**31. In your opinion, should COLA be involved in such activities?**

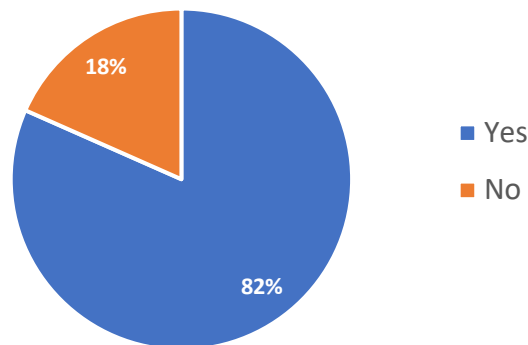


212 responses

**31. In your opinion, should COLA be involved in such activities? (“Other” comments)**

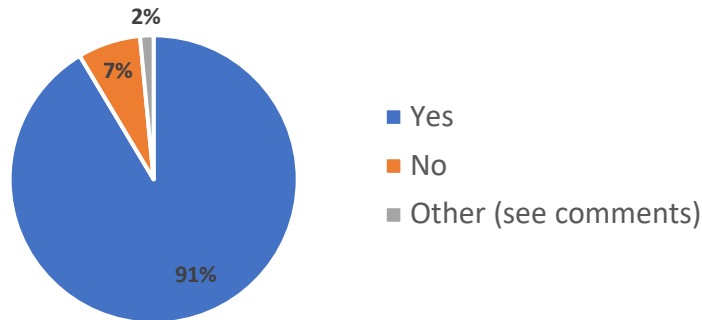
- Due so being fair to others. Quit the lawsuits. Work nicely with people. Be realistic, not idealistic.
- no opinion at this time
- To some extent
- to some extent as long as it affects lake quality and doesn't become a typical overbearing HOA
- Yes, but compliance issues should be handled by the proper legal authorities
- yes, but needs to show the benefits to all users.... not that it just helps build the value of a person's property....
- Yes, but with care.

**32. Are you aware that COLA has used the legal system to protect the lakes?**



234 responses

**33. If you answered "Yes" to question #32, do you feel that you understand the reasons behind the legal actions?**

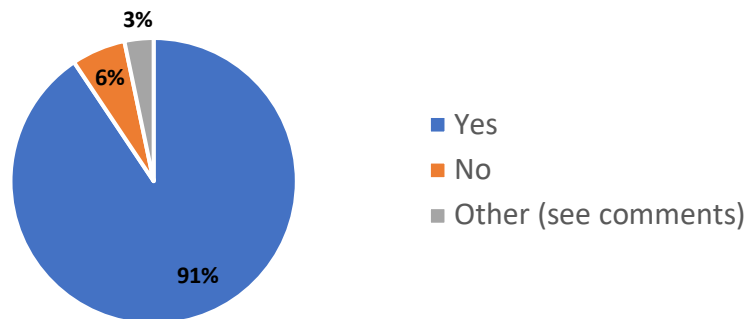


198 responses

**33. If you answered "Yes" to question #32, do you feel that you understand the reasons behind the legal actions? ("Other" comments)**

- my wife and I do...the public beyond Lac Courte Oreilles doesn't or believes that it doesn't hurt the lake that much....
- Understand to some degree. Knowledge comes from participation in COLA. To those that do not participate, they may not understand at all.
- Yes, but I don't necessarily agree with it.

**34. Do you think COLA should be involved in taking legal action to protect the lakes?**



213 responses

**34. Do you think COLA should be involved in taking legal action to protect the lakes? ("Other" comments)**

- Depends
- not sure?
- Only as a last resort. Please try to work nicely with people.

- Only with violators
- Within reason
- Yes, within reason
- yes, but must show examples/concrete examples of how it will help beyond the lake shore...

**35. Please describe what more you would like COLA to do to fight invasive species, protect water quality, and preserve the lakes.**

- Actively pursue dredging Musky Bay to return Musky spawning and remove phosphorus.
- Anything you think is likely to get results.
- Band together with lake associations in the entire watershed and form a “lakes association” with real authority. Townships, Sawyer CO., WI state and WDNR are not up to the task.
- Be more aggressive with homeowners who do not comply with proper rules and recommendations re buffer zones and use of fertilizers (it’s pretty obvious who doesn’t).
- Combination of mechanical and chemical/ biological treatment
- Continue doing what they are doing and to fight the State/County/DNR for lower numbers, from 15 to 10, so that the lakes can continue to be clear for many generations.
- Continue its efforts to prevent the cranberry farmers from dumping their wastewater directly into the lake at Musky Bay.
- Continue on this mission
- Continue to educate
- Continue to educate property owners
- Continue to fight the good fight
- Do your best
- Educate more of the lake's property owners and other lake users to know what is going on in the lakes and try to get their involvement or support.
- Educational programs and no more regulations
- Focus more on buffers, I believe more houses have caused problems
- Get the cranberry bogs to stop dumping their water into the lake
- Have their voice heard. Work with others. Monitor boat ramps.
- Have we ever considered retaining a lobbyist to work with the legislators and have them exert pressure on WDNR and other quasi-governmental bodies that hire full time specialist
- I appreciate all that’s being done
- I don’t know
- I feel COLA is working hard. The process is slow and consuming. Continue the course you are on. But don’t let any opportunity for informing lake property owners pass by. We appreciate being part of the informational loop. We will help financially when we can if we are informed and able.
- I honestly don't know what more COLA could do
- I think COLA is doing what it should and can do with actions taken on lakes and governmental. However, unless I’m wrong, we get the feeling Little Courte Oreilles is a stepchild to the big lake and doesn’t get the attention maybe it should. We are a much smaller lake and one that could be overcome by the invasive species easier & quicker than

the big lake and we have a LOT fewer voices to be heard. Our concern if this happens is the effect on home values and resale.

- I think global warming is trumping all other aspects
- I think the Beast device is a great start in effectively managing this issue
- I think the effort is excellent.
- I think you are taking the steps that we need to do.
- I would like them to place a barrier across the mouth of Musky Bay so people can't get in with their jet skis, speed boats, etc. and tear up the weeds. I'd also like to see a more aggressive campaign to inform wake boaters of the ordinance and general respect to others. Too many times I've had them come by within 100-300' of my boat while fishing and nearly throw me in the water. I've also chased them out of Stuckey Bay - which they shouldn't even be in.
- I would like to see musky spawning areas reestablished in Musky Bay.
- In addition to your excellent efforts to protect the water quality, we are concerned about the lack of enforcement regarding the 700' no wake regulation. Also, we question the number of trailers that are allowed on vacant land.
- Initiate legislation at the state level preventing farmers from discharging wastes and chemicals into lakes. Require them to pay for restoration of lakes caused by such practices.
- interested to see impact of weed machine.
- Keep monitoring, reporting and advocating at DNR and local authority level
- Keep pressing the issues and continue with the tribe's involvement
- Leave it to the DNR
- Leave the lake be as it is...some invasive species will actually make the lake better!
- Lobby legislature. Run information ads.
- Lobby, fight for enforcement, treat as needed, monitor entry
- Make people responsible for what they put into the lake and pay for damages
- Maybe address duck itch
- none at this time
- Not sure what further could be done.
- Not sure, think they have been doing a good job.
- Nothing more
- Other than donating money, maybe inform us lake owners what more we can do individually to improve water quality and fight these problems near our property - such as chemicals we can apply legally or measures. (Other than buffer zones and runoff which you have done a good job educating us about.
- Please know I will think about these things and stay in touch
- Political advocacy, could COLA develop a PAC that would support area candidates that are in favor of improving water quality?
- protect open spaces along the lake, work with other groups like Musky Inc and Ducks Unlimited, land trusts, and the tribe to help fight this...I realize that it wasn't meant to but to many this has grown in their eyes to be a personal battle with the marsh/Ocean Spray...it needs to be us/all us/this is the only Couderay Lake/water is public for all...to do so: art/write/contests on or about the lake...for all people...sort like what has happened in places lake Grand Marais/BWCA/Atikokan...science AND THE HUMANITIES must come together....

- push for even larger buffer zones, and encourage legal entities to enforce buffer zones
- Raise more money, convert COLA skeptics, (there are many), better public relations and marketing
- Send out "reminders" for people not to leave floating rubber mats out for ducks to rest on, and to not feed the ducks or encourage them. Also, reminders and hints about light pollution. It is nice to sit on dock and look at stars but too many people putting in powerful lights and leaving them on all night.
- Slowly cruising the shoreline is fine but racing watercraft through shallow areas is unacceptable. Huge wakes behind boats leads to more shore erosion. I would like to see some hours established for recreational boating (to include wake boarding, water skiing, jet skiing, tubing and the more aggressive boating) and then the rest of the hours for fishing, and the use of non-powered watercraft. I am sure that won't happen ,but I guess I can dream.
- Stay the course.
- Stay the course. Avoid initiating or being named in legal actions, but support LCO, DNR, and others in theirs.
- Stay the course. Keep the information and education coming.
- Stop spearing
- They are already doing a good job.
- They should focus on things like improving the fishing in the lake which is something that has diminished dramatically over the past years. Musky are almost nonexistent in the lake. It used to be a trophy Musky like an hours not. They should educate some of the people that have been spearing on the lake and try to find other avenues for them
- Very difficult, the most effective long-term plan is to reduce phosphorous. Make the lake less attractive to the exotics
- work to eliminate discharge of water from cranberry bogs. None should be allowed to discharge into the lake.
- Would like better info on progress of the fight, always "this is our year" gets old
- You're doing a great job.
- Be aware of the issues, file court cases, etc.
- Cranberry bog owners continue phosphorous! If cranberry bogs continue to us phosphorous and dump in the lake, it's futile. Go after cranberry bog owners.
- The most important pollution is from agricultural runoff and discharge.
- Don't know.
- It has always appeared to me COLA was exploring every avenue possible.
- Doing fine.
- It's obvious the WDNR is dragging its feet because of the strong cranberry lobby – Very disappointing!
- Enforce 700 ft buffer zone. No wake ruining shorelines. Too many high speedboats ripping our shorelines.
- Try to buy out cranberry farmers and other sources of phosphorous.
- Cranberry bogs – they are the source of weeds and H2O quality.
- I think COLA is doing an excellent job trying to control/protect our water quality. Tough to fight the government/cranberry association.
- I believe the current actions and plans are currently sufficient.



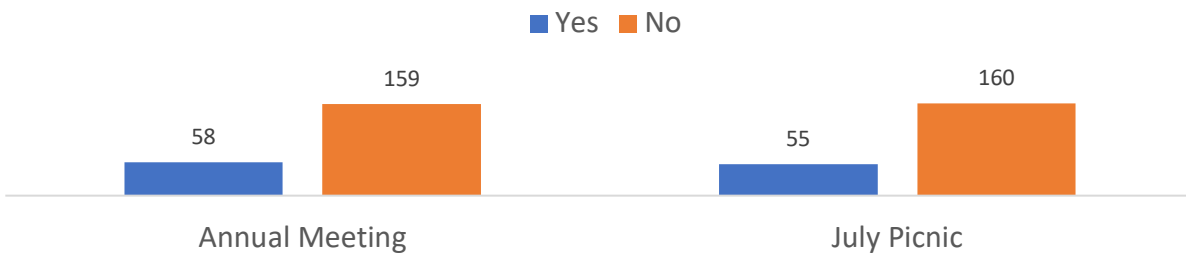
- Looking for more help and attention to Little LCO.
- Keep us informed. Control phosphorous.
- Education of the lake population.
- Don't lose sight of mission statement.
- In Barbertown Bay, because it's narrow and water is calmer, we get many wake boats that pull surfers that have been eroding the shoreline. More homeowners seem to be rocking their lake frontage, which is too bad.
- Keep up the good work.
- Let the lake manage itself!
- Eliminate damaging runoff material that affects the quality of the water.
- Do whatever keeps our lake and watershed a clear, beautiful, functioning water source.
- You're way ahead of me, already. Maybe have information on snails – how to handle them. Hard to get people to read it, though.
- Make up a list of things people can do to protect the lakes and send out. Some are so simple you may not be aware of them.
- Quality of the lake is going downhill. Due to one member being a cranberry farmer.
- Not sure COLA can do more. Some of the local people who should care don't even belong to COLA., they sit on their hands.
- I think you are doing everything possible – it's good to have the Ojibwa on our side and supporting measures.
- As is is fine.
- I want you to protect our lake.
- Bass removal.
- Get a good "high powered" attorney
- Remove them (AIS).
- Clean boats, remove invasive species where possible.
- Keep up the pressure.
- I don't feel that shoreline regulations are enforced equally. "Fancy" homes now landscape right to the shoreline!
- Good idea with weed harvester.
- Push harder with the farmers polluting the lake.
- More aggressive legal tactics.
- Continuing to monitor not only the health of the lakes, but also what other efforts are being made to do this and fight degrading water quality.
- Continue current efforts. Appeal adverse court and/or DNR rulings. Work with County and state for stricter phosphorous laws/regulations.
- Concentrate on "control", not "eliminating."

**36. Do you feel that COLA is keeping you adequately apprised of water quality issues as well as other things that COLA is doing for the lakes?**



215 responses

**37. COLA hosts two annual events, the annual meeting typically held in June and the July picnic. Do you usually attend these meetings?**



**38. Please provide your thoughts about the value and format of these two annual events.**

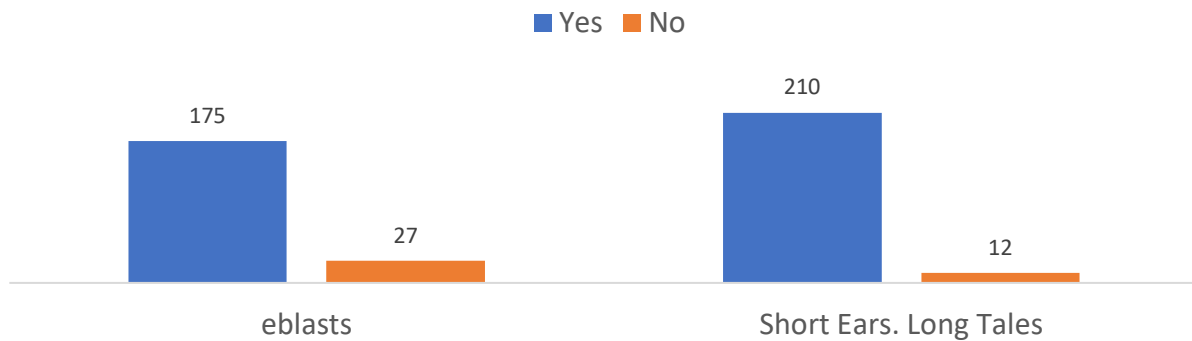
- annual meeting good...July picnic only includes a few, doesn't invite the masses to talk...meet, great.
- Annual meeting reports are very informative. Picnic is fun.
- Annual meeting very important. Picnic is moderately important.
- Annual Meeting is essential. We have to participate. Picnic is optional.
- Attended one or two annual meetings. They were very informative. Personal schedule just hasn't worked to attend recently.
- Both are good. We attend when we can.
- Good
- Good - due to other commitments and Covid have not been able to attend
- Good for social interaction. Probably need more such events, but perhaps more along the lines of boat outings, hikes, visits to historically important areas (tribal). Need to get innovative.
- Good summer picnic
- Good to get together to support COLA
- Good to promote meeting neighbors
- "Good, have had busy schedule - sometimes miss.

- Informative. Like the cinnamons rolls St Francis convenient.
- Have not been able to attend so not able to comment
- Having not attended, I cannot comment.
- Hopefully they help build a community of concerned and active lakeshore owners. I just haven't attended.
- I am sure they are great, but I have not been able to attend because of my own schedule issues.
- I attend when I'm in town, however because I share houses with various cousins, I'm not always in town for these events. When I have attended, I found the meeting extremely informative about the work COLA is doing.
- I enjoy the picnic even though I feel I'm about 20 years too young :D
- I have been unable to attend but have considered doing so. Just a scheduling issue for me... I have no comment on format.
- I have no thoughts, as I do not attend.
- I know people that attend and enjoy. We have not been able to attend, usually due to work commitments.
- I like the annual meeting better. I am able to listen to what people are doing to improve things around the lake. the picnic gives me a chance to meet those people
- I like the picnic better at the Bass Lake township location. The annual meeting location and substance are fine.
- I really enjoy the communication of the annual meeting. Guest speakers from our partners, Max Wolters(DNR), the Tribe Resource management, Turtles,
- I think that it's good that you have them and, in the past, I use to go to the meetings, and I have gone to one picnic. The picnic event is hard to get to because it's in July and I usually have people at my place.
- I think the Annual Meeting is important because it provides information about current lake situation. But, it does not reach or bring in enough people ... preaching to the choir.
- I think the picnic should be permanently cancelled. Save the \$ and put to another use to preserve the lake.
- I think they are good. I have rarely attended. My parents typically attend. I expect when they are unable, I will be attending.
- I understand that they are primarily social. I try to get to the spring event but often I am fishing in Canada that weekend and it didn't occur this year.
- I used to enjoy them immensely until cola started BLAMING good people for the supposed lake quality
- I would approve.
- in poor health unable to attend lately
- Informative agendas, casual, friendly meetings
- It always seems to be on a date when we have company.
- Love the annual meeting.
- meeting is very informative. We try to attend this each year. We would go to the picnic but we rarely are at the cabin at that time.
- no answer right now
- No comment

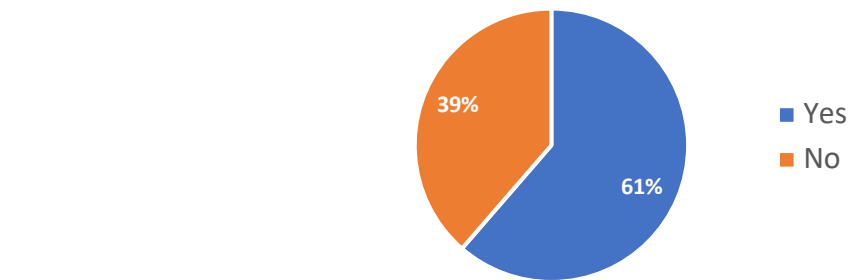
- no opinion
- Not able to attend when they are being held. (Not in town)
- Not of interest to us
- Not sure they are any more valuable than the newsletter information
- Ok
- Opportunities to be informed and time with lake residents.
- Some speakers at annual meeting talk too long and get too technical, losing the interest of some attendees. Otherwise it is informative and worthwhile. Picnic is a good way to meet lake neighbors.
- The annual meeting is necessary. I don't enjoy the picnic and may not attend again.
- The June meeting — focusing on the COLA work projects — is informative and makes us feel part of the team. We understand and enjoy the science of lake water preservation.
- The scheduling interferes with my Saturday morning bicycle group
- They are good events to have but now with COVID I don't think they can be held safely.
- They are just social events
- They are sufficient, and COLA leadership does a good job of trying to make them fun, interesting, and inclusive.
- They may have value. But we haven't regularly attended. I think these types of events could be more costly to the group than their benefit unless it costs the organization very little. Not sure if younger members value these opportunities
- valuable for communication and camaraderie. Meeting people
- Very informative. Liked the picnic at the Bass Lake Fire Department
- We appreciate COLA having them, unfortunately we are not always available to attend
- We attend if we are there.
- We did picnics when kids were little. Haven't gone recently and then there wasn't one this year for good reason. We do put it on our calendar, just seems we are busy on lake. Maybe a picnic dinner?
- We enjoy the technical presentations at the annual meeting
- we have attended only a few times for both events, they were fine
- We have not attended the July picnic since it was moved to Trail's End. There is no parking at Trail's End. One year we went, could not find a place to park so we left disappointed and angry.
- We've attended when possible. There needs to be a mixer format that encourages property owners to meet others on the lake. Use your 1-12 zoning for name badges.
- Wonderful for both informative and social reasons.
- I really enjoy the July picnic when I'm lucky enough to be on vacation at that time.
- nice opportunity to get to know other people in the area who want to protect the lakes.
- Both are helpful! I can meet the important people in COLA.
- Important.
- Glad you sponsor them, but usually take time away from lake time.
- Nice events.
- Good.
- Good. Helps spread the word about your organization.
- Love the annual meeting, but the date of the picnic usually conflicts with family visiting.

- Won't attend any more!
- Stopped attending picnic when it moved to Trails End. Miss the chicken!
- I came in the past – stopped when it became a slam against individuals.
- Good events.
- I have never personally been to either event.
- Annual meeting too long and dull. Need cake at the annual picnic.
- Annual meeting helpful.
- Don't know.
- Attend the picnic which helps raise money and allows get together to share ideas and friendship.
- We are not at the lake for these two events.
- I think they are valuable and appreciated by many. I just haven't been able to attend due to calendar conflicts.
- Never at the cabin during these times, so only able to attend one of the annual meetings. Very informative!
- I think the annual meeting is very important as a means of sharing information and seeing other lake members.
- Usually enjoying the lake and family during these events.
- Good for people who can attend.
- Would like to go but seems we're never at the cabin when they occur.
- I am sure the value is good.
- Excellent presentations at the annual meeting and great time to socialize at picnic.
- Both are great.
- I value the opportunity to visit with friends and meet new residents, and the information I get from formal presentations and informal conversations.
- The lake needs monitoring to keep it sanitary and safe for water sports.
- Worthwhile, but bad timing for us.
- Not aware of them.
- Both meetings are great, and I've attended both in years past. Time is my primary reason for not attending on a regular basis.
- Have value – schedule conflicts have precluded our past attendance.
- The annual meeting we were able to attend was great – very informative.
- I have never attended July picnic. Annual meeting is informative and very good.
- I have attended the July picnic 3-4 times over the years. I found them to be enjoyable.
- Doesn't fit my schedule. My fault; if I thought my input was valued, I would adjust my schedule.

**39. Do you receive and read the following communications that COLA sends?**

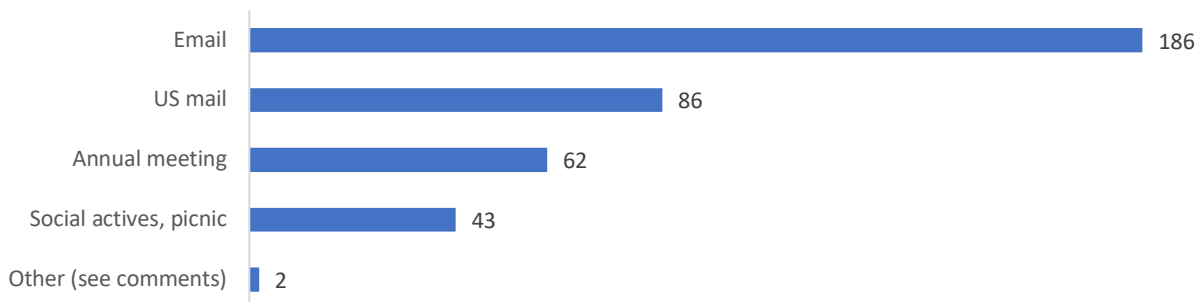


**40. Have you visited COLA’s website within the last two years?  
(www.cola-wi.org)**



220 responses

**41. How would you like to receive information from COLA?**



**41. How would you like to receive information from COLA? (“Other” comments)**

- All important news that is happening on the lakes
- paddle around the lake/ski around the lake/invite groups from the inner city to be part of our lake culture/here stories about Couderay Lake: A Lake Day: like the canoe shows at

Midwest Mountaineering and Canoecopia/Madison where we talk about the lake/water...at first they would be small in attendance/they could grow/

**42. Please tell us how we can improve our communications and activities regarding water quality, social/ recreational activities, or any other topics that you'd like expanded upon or added.**

- As mentioned above, instead of picnic during afternoon, a later 4-7 pm dinner? Then we are off the lake usually.
- By making donations to community projects
- COLA is doing a great job
- COLA is doing great work.
- Communications are going to my brother who shares our cabin. Include me in emails.
- Communications are good.
- Consistent, but brief email blasts with links to enable the reader to dive deeper if interested.
- Current is sufficient
- Doing a good job.
- Don't let up. I think there were many more off lake boats on our lake this summer. Communication to community about boat born invasive species would not hurt.
- Educate, make sure all property owners get the communications
- Figure out how to educate the renters as to what no wake zones are
- I am satisfied.
- I think communications are appropriate.
- It is pretty solid as is- we do like the web site availability
- It's fine
- Just keep doing what you are doing
- Just keep us informed. Hopefully all these surveys are being read and will be looked into.
- Keep doing what you're doing
- Keep up the good work
- Lead tours of affected areas - AIS, phosphorus discharge sites. Hammer home message with locals - Sawyer Co. Record, local businesses, realtors, town boards, realtors, etc.
- Maybe an Instagram. A lot of people are on it and it would be a great way to stay connected
- maybe help sponsor a concert or 2 during summer featuring local artists? Art show?
- More frequent contact so people get informed.
- No comment
- no opinion
- No suggestions
- None, you do a good job.
- not sure
- Nothing at this time
- paddle around the lake/art contest: paint the lake/artist day in Grand Marais/ concert on the lake...friends have done this to help preserve the Flint Hill Range in Kansas/see articles in Scientific America or contact Tom Connell/El Dorado, Kansas...bring the lake to

people...not just people who hang out at Anglers' Haven, Trails End...offer things that belong fit people from the Twin Cities...

- Provide more information about the status of the fishery i.e. stocking, species management, enforcement information about game/boating violations.
- Put out buoys at the 700' mark in specific areas of the lake.
- Short Ears, Long tales is great. Perhaps though, also a CONCISE periodic update on the issues and what Cola is doing about them. (You probably already do this.) Also, additional ways for people to show their support for the lake - the Cola signs are good, but maybe other ways such as car window stickers, shirts, hats, a cool dock and/or boat emblem or sign, etc. It would be great to build a stronger brand and loyalty like Polaris or Arctic Cat for instance.
- Stay the course.
- Tell me when it most effective to pull the CLP. I have asked and did not get a decent answer. I am looking for (May. - before June 15. - before July 4th), an answer like that
- Tell us exactly what is being done as it is being done
- The association should be an advocate for Lake owners not someone spying on them to check their length of their dock or review their septic system etc. There are government authorities to do that. I would be more supportive if they would focus on how we can enjoy the lake more with our watercraft and improve the fishing in the lake
- Think you are doing a good job of communicating.
- Try to send this to all residents in the watershed area. (Maybe you do this now)
- What you are doing is fine, I would like a few more updates on legal activities.
- You are doing a great job!
- You've been communicating clearly, effectively and with a good cadence.
- You're doing a fine job. Please continue to email me with all of Cola's information.
- You're doing good for my expectations
- Bigger email base
- doing a good job here.
- I like email, as it's easy to share. US Mail to get my attention.
- They are good.
- You are doing a good job now.
- All good.
- Would like to have the channel under the LCO and Little LCO bridge dredged to ensure access.
- You are doing an excellent job at communicating – thanks to Kevin and those who volunteer.
- LCO hiking club, book club, dinner club, etc.
- Keep doing what you are doing.
- Focus on action and outcome of your efforts.
- Any in-person visits...tough to do, I know, from working school referendum.
- I need to visit the website more.
- I'm so impressed with the late summer and early fall mailings.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep communicating on a regular basis.



- You are doing great.
- Not important to me.
- Just more success in your legal affairs.
- Keep it up.
- Currently doing a good job.
- No improvement necessary.
- Make sure rental properties know lake rules.
- Email.
- Wish you well, but discouraged by locals' attitudes.
- Doing an excellent job. Keep it up.
- Same as now.
- You are doing a great job.
- Water: I am near Victory Heights boat landing and I see many boats going in from local renters and others, and there is no evidence that the boats have been cleaned or inspected. I know if I was the sort of person who did not care and wanted to "sneak" in, I'd use that landing.
- If you had both mine and my wife's email – we will provide.
- I think you do a great job already.

**43. Are there any issues on the lakes, your property, or in your neighborhood that bother you or affect your enjoyment? If so, please explain.**

- Already covered -Too many invasive plants in Barbertown Bay
- Annoyed when people go fast too close to shore/erosion concerns. COLA has tried to address and educate.
- As said above, we've been here 66 years with long-term neighbors and friends. 3 years ago, a close neighbor had to sell. The new owners bought to use as a VRBO (although this summer they only used personally). The owners treat it as if they are just renters (which, in a sense they are, as they "rent" their weeks from the legal ownership entity they created). For the most part, the renters (and the "owner renters") respect the lake, but the neighborhood feeling isn't there. We think Sawyer County needs to be more focused on regulating VRBOs — allowed frequency of turnover, noise, etc. — at this time, and not years from now after the lake character could be irrevocably changed. (They could look to other locations — the island of Molokai comes to mind for us — that have worked hard to preserve a community in the face of VRBO pressures.)
- Being on the other end of the lake from Musky Bay I sometimes feel that the upper part of the lake has not been as important. I'm seeing more weeds in Barber Town Bay and by my dock in Little Sweden's in the last 3 years. I have contributed to the "weed eater" and hope my area gets attention
- Boats navigating too close to shore creating a large wake that affects our shoreline and swimming safety.
- boats traveling too close to our dock/shore, generating large waves
- Continued contamination by cranberry bog owners.
- Dense Weed/plant growth on Little Courte Oreilles. Fishing production has been suspect in last 2-3 years.

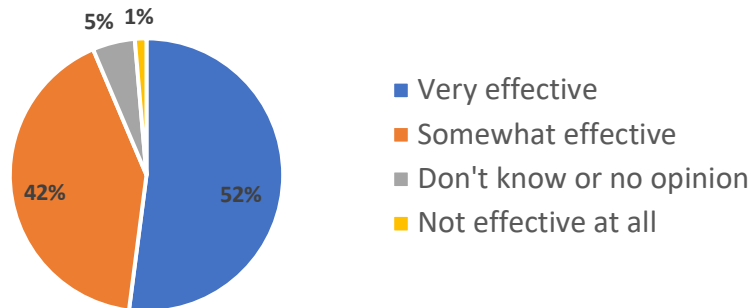
- Duck Itch
- Duck lice
- Duck mites, weeds, lake bottom
- Elec power is constantly going out. Just the other day I talked to the workers as they dug up the road in front of my driveway. They said the tribe will not allow them to make permanent repairs or upgrades. Many neighbors have had to get generators it happens so often.
- Electricity is disrupted frequently (weekly). Most recently the repair workers said we were on a road (Wilkie) that the native Americans will not allow to be fixed.
- Fireworks! Fireworks!! Fireworks!!! Jet skis. High-powered wake boats. Gun nuts. Miscreant snowmobilers in winter.
- Get rid of the COLA signs, especially the ones on lawns that are obviously fertilized right down to the water line---Hypocrites !!
- have the all board members say hi to you if you show up at a meeting...a few do some are aloof...show up all community events like school activities to get notice...
- High water levels cause damage to our property.
- How frequent should septic systems be checked? I assume it should be a periodic initiative by COLA. Also, is there a way to validate those with washers are not having the discharge go directly into the soil and seal into the lake. I suspect there are still some old cabins that have this. Can this be addressed?
- I dislike PWCs and ATVs.
- I do not go in the water at my dock because of the swimmer's itch, chiggars, if I go out to the middle of the lake, I am less affected. This is unfortunate for me.
- I heard they are lowering the lake level and would seriously advise to not.
- I would like saving shoreline information.
- Increasing concern over shoreline degradation due to Wake boarding
- Is soil erosion a big issue? I.e. should folks think about bringing back natural shoreline and should that be encouraged/supported/enforced more than it is?
- What other long-term issues impacted by climate change should COLA focus on? Is water levels (too high or too low) going to be a big issue?"
- It bothers me how ignorant some people are about threats or their own responsibilities to help the lakes, not damage them.
- jet skiers are annoying and aggressive to capture waves left by boats, dangerous
- Just a lot of seaweed in Musky Bay. Makes it hard to swim/ enjoy the lake front. Hard to use waverunners/ boat without getting tangled.
- Light pollution and swimmers itch from all the ducks.
- My new neighbor is a dick.
- No
- No, now that road construction has finally started on Victory Heights
- Noise from neighbors. People who simply come on weekend, make noise, get drunk, have parties, then leave on Sunday having done nothing for the area except take, take, take never giving back or caring about anybody but themselves.
- noise from renters
- None
- none beyond those mentioned above.

- Not at this time
- Our shoreline has taken a tremendous hit the past 10 years. We had to take down our boat house because of the damage it sustained. I am concerned there is some impact to the shoreline because of the Billy Boy Dam.
- People are changing their lake front right up to the lake. Shouldn't there be a buffer zone?
- People in boats going to shoreline areas and disrupting privacy of property owners.
- People not being responsible for their part of what is happening to our lake. Wake boats in our bay with water skiers that make huge waves. Wake boats in the bay when your trying to get your boat out or they're skiing, and your boat is banging into your dock as the waves then crash up your lakeshore bank
- People that don't know what DNR rules are in regards to no wake and PWCs
- Please continue to keep the water level up so that you can boat between Big LCO and Little LCO/ Big LCO and Grindstone/ Little LCO and the Billy Boy. Keeping the water level up will help get your boat off of the lift, especially on many parts of big LCO. Everyone that I talk to, wants to keep the water level up. I haven't talked to a single person who doesn't. In other words: KEEP THE WATER LEVEL UP!!!
- Pontoons cruising too close to docks and fishermen and watercraft
- previous answers
- Relentless noise from jet skiing and the speed used in the shallows.
- Restrict the wake boats
- See above.
- Seems like there are a lot more dead snails washing up on shore the last couple of years. I spent most of the summer picking them up, pretty nasty smelling
- slightly lower water levels. but I know that is a tall ask. I think people along the billy boy river would have trouble boating because of the lowered water.
- Some boaters come too close to docks.
- Speed limits on Victory Heights are not enforced. Delivery, construction and other vehicle often travel at 3 times the posted speed.
- Swimmer's itch/duck lice getting worse, showing up earlier
- Swimmers itch, and the pontoon boats, personnel watercraft so close to shore.
- The 700-foot wake boarding ordinance is ridiculous... and I don't wake board.
- the amount of fireworks for one. Seems like they go all summer. Boat traffic and waves are issue to and from Trails End. Especially more and bigger boats and engines. Very loud at times.
- This year the fireworks (and gunshots?) seem particularly bothersome. The noise went on for weeks and at all hours of day and night. Some of us go to the lake to enjoy the peace and quiet and natural sounds, such as loons.
- I noticed a lot of jet skis and fast boats very close to shore, where they can cause damage and also, once again, are very noisy.
- There seems to be a new trend of pontoon and other boats anchoring just offshore in groups and having very noisy parties, without regard to people on shore. I wish people would have courtesy for all lake users.
- Too many boaters, especially on weekends. They are loud and rude and even come ashore to relieve themselves on my property.
- Too much activity and loud noise off Wismo Point. Rude and drunken boaters

- Unable to transit between large and small LCO due to water depth under bridge.
- Wake boarding too close to shore
- Water levels are too low.
- We appreciate COLA checking out the weed growth in our bay
- we don't like the patch of weeds off our dock and nothing seems to work to clear them out.
- We've had some paving happen that exceed limits of percent coverage and cabins that appear to violate set back go up.
- Weeds
- weeds in Musky Bay-and concerns for invasive species throughout the lake
- Why is the level of the lake so low??? We are unable to navigate in and out of the two LCO lakes under the Thoroughfare bridge. We are not the only ones that have had issues with this. We also have issues getting our boats off our lifts as a result of the lower water. If it remains like this, we will have to purchase more pier sections. Why??? Rumors abound. Heard Sawyer County made adjustments at Billy Boy dam that lowered water levels???
- yes - water quality
- Yes, the swimmers itch needs to be cleared Up!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Waterfowl on my deck and property.
- None that have not been addressed.
- Enforcement and boat/jet skis, etc speeding too close to shore. We cross country on lake and have almost been hit by speeding snowmobiles very close to shore.
- None.
- Groups that pull up to shore and stay in the water – sometimes right next to our dock.
- No.
- I don't like boats assembling on Wismo Point daily. They are almost always on top of our docks at Wismo.
- Lack of boaters respecting no-wake near shoreline and docks.
- Land: I see so many wooded lots cleared, "lawns" going in, huge buildings and multiple buildings on small lots. I thought there were rules, but apparently not enforced.
- We are very concerned about the water depth between Little and Big LCO. We have been told it is going to be dredged, but have not been updated.
- Who do we report issues to? I called the DNR about a neighbor removing rocks (buckets of them) from his shore and dumping them. Never heard more. Violation for sure!
- Lake level too high before lake freezes.
- Wake boats too close. Swimmers' itch.
- Town of Bass Lake reserve strip harassment. I am a good steward of my property, and they have done nothing but harass us for 80 years.
- Large waves from wake boats. High water levels erode beach.
- Declining commercial property. Possibility of break in. Unmarked rocks, shallow spots, dangerous to boaters.
- Too many properties have become rentals, and those renters don't follow rules as much as owners. No wake zones/littering/noise all are concerns.
- Wake boarding near shoreline.
- Nothing, really.

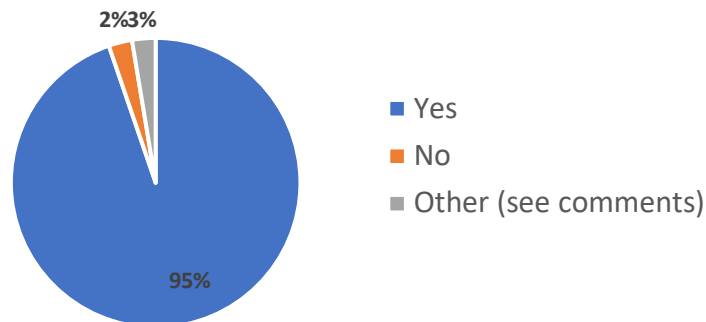
- “Short term rentals”. Lake homes being purchased for rental investment. Renters typically, not caretakers.
- We see too much wild dog activity on Thoroughfare Road.
- Wake boats being too close to shore.
- Rental properties.
- You have it covered.
- Stop trying to control wake boats, jet skis, boats, etc. The lake should be enjoyed by all!

**44. Rate COLA’s overall effectiveness in helping to protect water quality and enjoyment of your lake experience.**



219 responses

**45. Do you feel that you and your family are doing what you can to take care of the lakes?**



229 responses

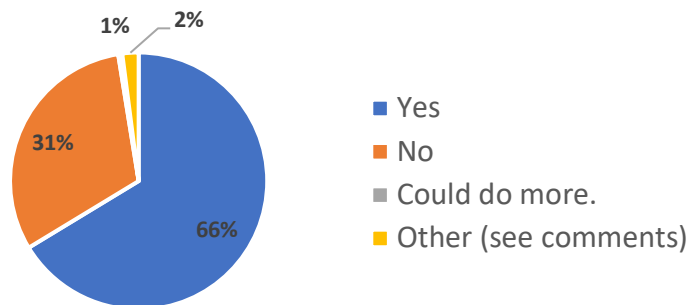
**45. Do you feel that you and your family are doing what you can to take care of the lakes? (“Other” comments)**

- Doing some but could do more.
- Sometimes
- trying...just redid the shoreline from other development in the 1950's with trees in the water. more trees on the shoreline, removed two cabins from the land, haven't raked the hillside in the last decade...pine needle paths to the lake, trying to remove the last building

on the land, and late nature work....at the same time my family and I have probably not done enough for the lake in the years that we've owned the land/1949...

- We could probably contribute more to COLA's legal advocacy and we neglected to contribute to the purchase of the "machine" that's coming next summer. We hope to rebound from some economic setbacks, since one of us was furloughed during the pandemic.
- We just joined this year and plan to get more involved
- yes, but would like to know what else we can do other than support COLA

**46. Do you work with neighbors or others to collectively work toward protecting the LCO lakes?**



196 responses

**46. Do you work with neighbors or others to collectively work toward protecting the LCO lakes? ("Other" comments)**

- Just through our modest support of COLA
- talk about the leaning forest of trees along the shoreline that help shade, shelter, grow the landscape of Lac Courte Oreilles...
- Tried talking with neighbors about feeding ducks but useless. Other side of us is vacant at this time.
- We wish we had the nerve to remind boat owners about the no wake regulation.

**47. What do you think lake property owners should be doing as part of their responsibility in preserving the lakes and lake property?**

- At a minimum - follow guidelines suggested by COLA.
- avoiding the manicured lawns. Respect other boaters and fishing boats by keeping your distance and reducing speeds.
- Be aware and act on invasive species. Control and reduce runoff. Preserve natural shoreline appearance.
- be part of the community of Hayward/besides shopping/eating...treat the LCO tribe with continued respect/all people within LCO...understand through a lake day/demonstration that things that can help to a lake with wave action/high water waves...realize that ice damages stuffs/accept it....stop cutting trees for viewing the lake...
- Be responsible, and financially support COLA's efforts (special assessment?)

- Biggest thing they can do is monitor the use of fertilizer in their lawns and keep up their bank
- Buffer Zone/maintain Peace, Quiet, and Tranquility
- Buffer zones and pull weeds
- Check septic and water systems!
- Cleaning their lakeshore, no fertilizer by lake, riprap if needed, respect other boaters and others using the water, responsible fish harvesting.
- Comply with property rules and regulations, i.e., set backs ,buffers, use of chemicals, etc.
- Continue supporting you!
- contributing and participating in COLA
- Could they pay part of property taxes to help support the health of the lake? I'm totally for that.
- Don't fertilize your lawn and have a buffer between your lawn and the lake.
- Don't put things into the lake that are illegal! Be respectful of our lakes! Fines for those caught doing illegal things!
- Donating to Cola
- drive their big boats out further from shore, especially when towing back and forth
- Eliminate phosphorus.
- Fight the cranberry bog owners continued pollution of LCO - make the State get a compromise with the Cranberry Lobby to STOP the discharge into LCO.
- Financial support.
- Follow lake management guidelines and address boaters that aren't following the laws (e.g. operating too close to docks/shores at fast speed).
- follow the rules
- Following rules and enjoying their property not having other people telling them how to enjoy it.
- Funding COLA so that COLA can do its thing.
- Give money to support COLA. Volunteer time
- Have buffer zones
- Have their voices heard by government entities to secure their support of water quality.
- Hm. Stop installing asphalt walkways that go right down to the water's edge. Stop tearing up weed beds. The lake is huge, jet ski, water ski, etc. someplace further away from shore.
- I believe that anything helping to prevent shoreline erosion is a positive step in preserving the lakes and property around them.
- increase buffer zones and natural vegetation, a nice grass lawn is bad for the lake
- Increase buffer, decrease chemicals going into lake, decrease motor usage
- Join COLA.
- Just be conservation minded
- Just be good stewards
- Just be responsible
- Keep it natural. Not so many big long-term floating platforms. Temporary is fine.
- Keep natural vegetation on shoreline. Don't fertilize lawns that will run into lake.
- keep septics functioning properly AND shoreline buffers

- lake shore protection and treating weeds off our dock. Nothing seems to work, and they are taking over.
- Learn the facts and consequences of the collective behavior...good or bad...on the lakes.
- Maintain appropriate septic system compliance, establish buffers to inhibit drainage to lake, do you really need to use yard fertilizer, eliminate weed and plants from boat used on other waters, do not dispose old live bait in lake.
- maintain buffer zones, do not use fertilizer on lawns, keep septic compliant
- Maintain shoreline buffer and quit fertilizing.
- Maintain their property and follow DNR guidelines as best as possible. Mind their own business with a responsible effort to do their part.
- maintain their septic systems, do not use phosphate containing fertilizer on lawns near the water. Allow natural vegetation to grow near the shoreline
- maintaining buyers, septic, etc.
- Make all effort to reduce runoff
- Maybe, stop fertilizing their lawns
- Mindful of their impact on the lake. Make effort where they can
- monitor and replace (old) septic systems
- More volunteering, more donations.
- no fertilizer on yards, buffer zones, again, what else can we do?
- No fertilizer, minimize paving and runoff areas. Keep shoreline vegetation in place as much as possible
- No lawn treatments!
- No use of phosphorus fertilizers
- Not putting fertilizers in the lake, via their lawn, managing boating activity when bringing a boat from other lakes
- Not using fertilizer on their lawns, removing trailers as permanent residence, being aware of the no wake zone.
- Observing buffer zones, maintaining good septic systems
- Obviously septic soundness, impervious surface attention is very important
- Pay attention. If people see something that's wrong, they should do something about it. Property owners should not rely on others to do the heavy lifting. Get involved.
- Paying attention to the buffer zone on the lakeshore
- Pulling seaweed that floats to the shore out of the water. Do not drive your watercrafts close to the shoreline
- Refrain from overdevelopment.
- Refraining from mowing grass right down to the shoreline, refraining from any chemical applications on lawns facing the lake, washing boats carefully so as not to carry invasive plants from other lakes.
- Septic, preventing runoff
- shoreline buffers and no fertilizers on lawns
- Shoreline management. Clean water practices and monitor
- Shoreline preservation, natural buffering between lawn and water
- Shoreline, septic...



- Stay vigilant, avoid any fertilizers, maintain septic systems, report any new weed issues for investigation.
- Stop fertilizing and go back to natural shoreline
- Stop fertilizing grass. Buffers.
- Stop fertilizing lawns, stop bathing in the lake, restore shorelines, I've seen a few lawns right down to the lake with COLA signs on them. Try to win over the COLA deniers.
- Stop having manicured lawns to the shore that are treated with chemicals. Keep property clean and litter free. Do necessary maintenance to buildings.
- Stop maintaining lawns up to the lakeshore, and especially stop using fertilizer on those lawns.
- Please think about your neighbors when you are making a lot of noise (fireworks at midnight, etc.)
- Support COLA
- They should NOT be mowing their lawns right down to the lake. They should have proper buffer zones, but nearly impossible to enforce.
- Try to preserve your shoreline.
- Turning off outside lights on lake side of home by 10 pm. Not feeding ducks. Bringing in those new rubber mats so ducks cannot rest on them like floating islands.
- unsure - follow the regulations
- Update septic, avoid gas spills into water, abide by no wake zone, etc.
- Use care when on the lake and boat launch areas and reduce chemical usage on your property.
- What about forming a lake district to access state or fed. funds?
- Working together and support COLA
- Keep them as clean as possible. Boats working efficiently. Not bathing in the lake.
- follow the laws that exist to protect the lakes.

**48. Would you be interested in volunteering to help COLA?**



202 responses