

# BABOOSIC LAKE

## 2014 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

### Station – 3 Sharks Tooth

Amherst and Merrimack, NH



**Blue** = Excellent =  
Oligotrophic

**Yellow** = Fair =  
Mesotrophic

**Red** = Poor = Eutrophic

**Gray** = No Data

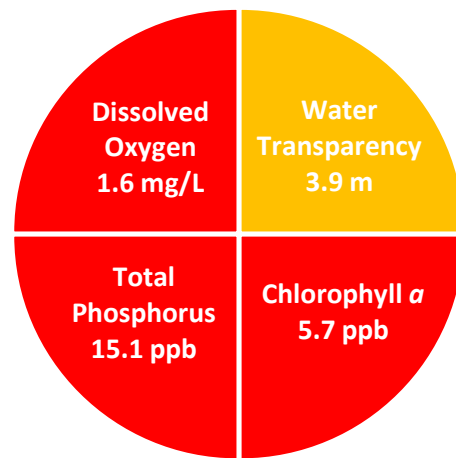


Figure 1. Baboosic Lake Water Quality (2014)

Station 3 Sharks Tooth (Figure 7) was used as a reference point to represent the overall Baboosic Lake water quality. Water quality data displayed in Tables 1 and 2 are surface water measurements with the exception of the dissolved oxygen data that were collected in the layer of rapidly decreasing temperatures.

Table 1. 2014 Baboosic Lake Seasonal Averages and NH DES Aquatic Life Nutrient Criteria

Parameter	Oligotrophic "Excellent"	Mesotrophic "Fair"	Eutrophic "Poor"	Baboosic Lake – 3 Sharks Average (range)	Baboosic Lake – 3 Sharks Classification
Water Clarity (meters)	4.0 – 7.0	2.5 - 4.0	< 2.5	3.9 meters (3.2 – 4.9)	Mesotrophic
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ppb)	< 3.3	> 3.3 – 5.0	> 5.0 – 11.0	5.7 ppb (3.2 – 11.1)	Eutrophic
Total Phosphorus (ppb)	< 8.0	> 8.0 – 12.0	> 12.0 – 28.0	15.1 ppb (11.7 – 20.8)	Eutrophic
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	5.0 – 7.0	2.0 – 5.0	<2.0	1.6 mg/L (0.5 – 5.7)	Eutrophic

\* Dissolved oxygen concentrations were measured on August 4, 2014 between 4.5 and 7.0 meters, in the layer of rapidly decreasing temperatures.

Table 2. 2014 Baboosic Lake Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

Parameter	Assessment Criteria					Baboosic Lake – 3 Sharks Average (range)	Baboosic Lake – 3 Sharks Classification
	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored		
Color (color units)	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored	27.1 color units (21.2 – 33.0)	Lightly tea colored
Alkalinity (mg/L)	< 0.0 acidified	0.1 – 2.0 extremely vulnerable	2.1 – 10 moderately vulnerable	10.1 – 25.0 low vulnerability	> 25.0 not vulnerable	12.3 mg/L (11.0 – 13.2)	Low vulnerability
pH (std units)	< 5.5 suboptimal for successful growth and reproduction		6.5 – 9.0 optimal range for fish growth and reproduction			7.2 standard units (range: 7.0 – 7.3)	Optimal range for fish growth and reproduction
Specific Conductivity (uS/cm)	< 50 uS/cm Characteristic of minimally impacted NH lakes		50-100 uS/cm Lakes with some human influence	> 100 uS/cm Characteristic of lakes experiencing human disturbances		124.1 uS/cm (range: 110.2 – 130.1)	Characteristic of lakes experiencing human disturbances

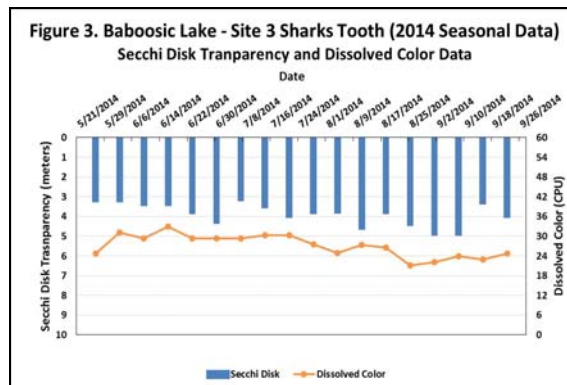
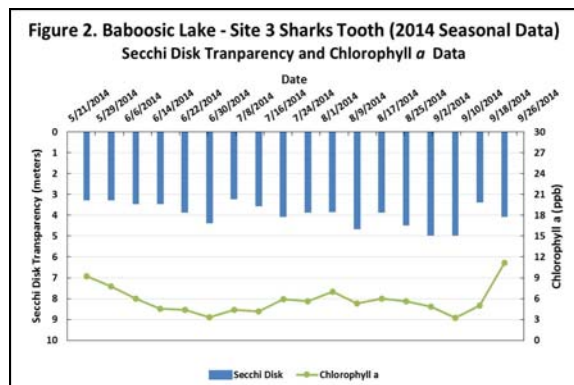


Figure 2 and 3. Seasonal Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* changes and dissolved color concentrations. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the interplay among Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* and dissolved color. Shallower water transparency measurements oftentimes correspond to increases in chlorophyll *a* and/or color concentrations.

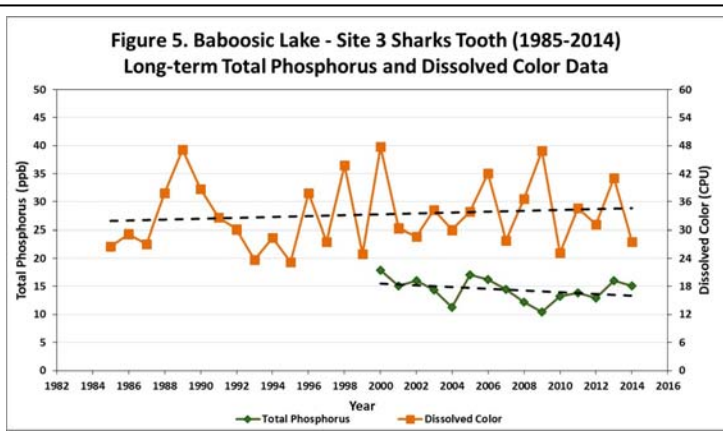
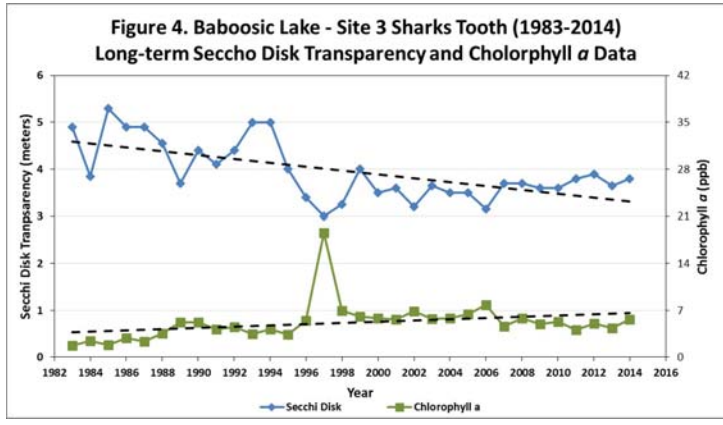
## LONG-TERM TRENDS

**WATER CLARITY:** The Baboosic Lake water clarity measurements, measured as Secchi Disk transparency, display a trend of decreasing water clarity since 1983 (Figure 4).

**CHLOROPHYLL:** The Baboosic Lake chlorophyll *a* concentrations, a measure of microscopic plant life within the lake, display a trend of increasing concentrations since 1983 (Figure 4).

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Phosphorus is the nutrient most responsible for microscopic plant growth. The Baboosic Lake total phosphorus concentrations display a trend of decreasing concentrations since the year 2000 (Figure 5).

**COLOR:** The Baboosic Lake color data, the result of naturally occurring “tea” color substances from the breakdown of soils and plant materials, display a trend of increasing concentrations since 1985 (Figure 5).

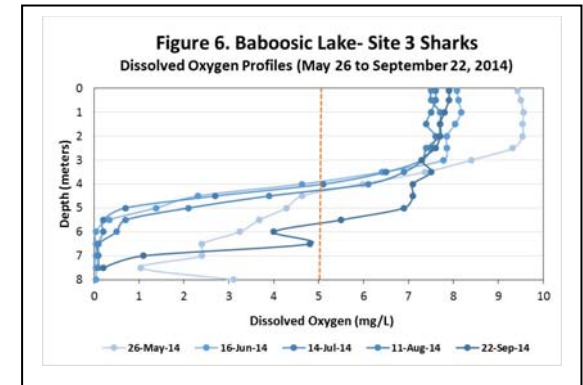


**Table 3. Baboosic Lake Seasonal Average Water Quality Inter-Site Comparison (2014)**

Sampling Station	Average (range) Total Phosphorus (ppb)	Average (range) Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ppb)	Average (range) Water Clarity (meters)
1 Clarks	15.3 ppb (range: 11.6 – 19.8)	5.5 ppb (range: 2.6 – 8.6)	3.8 m (range: 3.0 – 4.5)
2 Center	14.3 ppb (range: 11.2 – 20.2)	5.6 ppb (range: 2.8 – 9.7)	3.9 m (range: 3.2 – 4.5)
3 Sharks Tooth	15.1 ppb (range: 11.7 – 20.8)	5.7 ppb (range: 3.2 – 11.1)	3.9 m (range: 3.2 – 4.9)
4 Washer Cove	16.1 ppb (range: 12.3 – 20.2)	5.0 ppb (range: 2.9 – 8.3)	3.3 m (range: 3.0 – 3.5)

Figures 4 and 5. Changes in the Baboosic Lake water clarity (Secchi Disk depth), chlorophyll *a*, dissolved color and total phosphorus concentrations measured between 1983 and 2014. **These data illustrate the relationship among plant growth, water color and water clarity. Total phosphorus data are also displayed and are oftentimes correlated with the amount of plant growth.**

Figure 6. Monthly Baboosic Lake dissolved oxygen profiles collected between May 26 and September 22, 2014. The vertical red line indicates the dissolved oxygen concentration commonly considered the threshold for successful growth and reproduction of cold water fish. *Notice the decreasing dissolved oxygen concentrations near the lakebottom.*



## Reccomendations

Implement Best Management Practices within the Baboosic Lake watershed to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion into Baboosic Lake. Refer to “Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach” and “New Hampshire Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions for Your Home” for more information on how to reduce nutrient loading caused by overland run-off. The Baboosic Lake Watershed Plan Update, prepared by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission in 2014, lists additional measures that can help reduce the phosphorus inputs into Baboosic Lake.

- <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/documents/mirror-lake-wmp-2012.pdf>
- [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159\\_Rep5940.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159_Rep5940.pdf)
- [http://www.nashuarpc.org/files/4414/2143/6758/2014\\_Baboosic\\_Lake\\_Watershed\\_Plan\\_Update.pdf](http://www.nashuarpc.org/files/4414/2143/6758/2014_Baboosic_Lake_Watershed_Plan_Update.pdf)

# Figure 7. Baboosic Lake

Amherst & Merrimack, NH

2014 Deep water sampling site locations with seasonal average water clarity



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



University of New Hampshire  
Cooperative Extension



Aerial Orthophoto Source: NH GRANIT  
Site location GPS coordinates collected by the UNH Center of Freshwater Biology