

IPS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANALYTICAL SERVICES
Appleton, Wisconsin

PHASE II
UPPER CHAIN O' LAKES MANAGEMENT PLAN
WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

REPORT TO:
CHAIN O' LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

December, 1995

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
LIST OF TABLES.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iv
LIST OF APPENDIXES.....	v
SUMMARY.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	2
DESCRIPTION OF AREA.....	4
METHODS.....	7
Watershed Characteristics.....	7
Water Quality Monitoring.....	7
Recreational Use.....	9
Exotic Species.....	9
Public Involvement Program.....	9
FIELD DATA DISCUSSION.....	10
Watershed Characteristics.....	10
Groundwater.....	11
Lakes.....	12
Sediment and Nutrient Delivery.....	13
Water Quality.....	13
Recreational Use.....	25
Exotic Species.....	28
BASELINE CONCLUSIONS.....	30
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	33
LIST OF REFERENCES.....	37

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Assistance provided by the Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association is much appreciated. Special thanks are extended to Ken Hurlbut for his considerable involvement with field activities, informational input and local coordination of the projects.

Development of this plan was made possible with funds provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Management Planning Grant Program, the Waupaca County Water Quality Maintenance Program, the Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association and the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Lake District.

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Lake Management Planning Project Groups, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin	3
2	Sample Station Descriptions, Upper Chain, 1992 - 1994	8
3	Well Nitrate Data by Subwatershed for the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Priority Watershed Project, 1995	11
4	Nitrate Levels (mg/l) for Surface Water in the Chain O' Lakes Subwatershed, 1994 - 1995	12
5	Water Quality Parameters, Station 1001, Rainbow Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994	15
6	Water Quality Parameters, Station 1002, George Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - May 1993	16
7	Water Quality Parameters, Station 1003, Taylor Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994	17
8	Water Quality Parameters, Station 1004, Otter Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994	18
9	Water Quality Parameters, Station 1005, Sunset Lake (Deep Pt.), Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994	19
10	Water Quality Parameters, Station 1006, Sunset Lake (West of Onaway Island), Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - May 1993	20
11	Event Water Quality Parameters, Station 10E1, King Storm Sewer (Near Veterans Home), Chain O' Lakes, May 1993 - August 1994	23
12	Comparison of Recreational Use Parameters for Various User Groups, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin	25
13	Percentage of "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" Responses for Various User Groups, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin	27

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Location Map, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin	5
2	Sample Station Locations, Upper Chain, 1992 - 1994	8
3	Land Uses in the Chain O' Lakes Subwatershed, 1994	10
4	Surface Total Nitrogen Trends for the Upper Chain, 1991 - 1994	21
5	Surface Total Phosphorus Trends for the Upper Chain, 1991 - 1994	21
6	Average Flow Contribution for Overland Sources, Chain O' Lakes, 1994	24
7	Average Nitrogen Contribution for Overland Sources, Chain O' Lakes, 1994	24
8	Average Phosphorus Contribution for Overland Sources, Chain O' Lakes, 1994	24
9	Purple Loosestrife Growth Areas, Upper and Middle Chain, 1994	29

LIST OF APPENDIXES

<u>Appendix</u>		<u>Page</u>
I	Recreational Use Survey Results, Upper Chain O' Lakes Management Plan	38
II	Summary of Public Involvement Activities, Upper Chain O' Lakes Management Plan	51

SUMMARY

The Upper Chain project group consists of Otter, Taylor, George, Sunset and Rainbow Lakes of the Chain O' Lakes, a group of 22 mostly interconnected relatively small lakes in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Water quality is good to very good and related to substantial groundwater inflow. Water quality, along with the Chain's proximity to population centers, contribute to highly developed shoreline areas (many permanent residential) and periodic high to excessive non-resident recreational use. An initial resource assessment was made in 1992 (Phase I Chain O' Lakes Management Plan); this document supplements the 1992 report with Phase II efforts toward development of a comprehensive lake management plan.

The Chain O' Lakes watershed, primarily agricultural but with significant forested and wetland areas, is a subwatershed of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River basin which has recently been granted Priority Watershed Project Status. Variable, but generally low groundwater nitrate levels were observed in the Chain subwatershed during the appraisal phase of the Priority Watershed Project. Overland flow nutrient and sediment inputs were estimated to be lower than expected, but field estimates for nutrients were substantially higher. Lake modeling for some Chain lakes indicated a natural process of phosphorus removal by marl precipitation.

Upper Chain water quality monitoring during Phases I and II indicated in-lake nutrient levels below those expected for the region. Otter Lake continued to have relatively higher nutrients, which may reflect basin differences between it and other Upper Chain lakes. The King storm sewer was estimated to contribute a relatively small amount of nutrients.

Upper Chain recreational use survey results were similar to those of the Chain O' Lakes overall and various resident user groups. Results indicated periodic excessive use during summer weekends or holidays with perceived safety problems and diminished recreational enjoyment of the resource related primarily to non-resident or commercial watercraft. Water safety enforcement was considered adequate at all times, slightly less so during periods of peak use, and no clear consensus was evident regarding the need for additional regulation. Residents agreed there was adequate access, disagreed with the need for a public park or swimming beach, and were evenly divided regarding the need for more water accessible public restrooms.

Purple loosestrife, an exotic potentially nuisance plant, was present and locally abundant in the Upper Chain.

Water quality protection and water use conflict minimization are priority management objectives for the Upper Chain and all Chain O' Lakes residents. Specific recommendations for the Upper Chain include private well testing for nitrates and/or pesticides, more event sampling (coordinated with flow and rainfall monitoring) at the storm sewer inflow, and removal or management of the purple loosestrife beds. Other recommendations are applicable to the Upper and other Chain project groups and emphasize continued focus and expanded involvement (designated Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association individuals or committees) in watershed-wide surface water and groundwater quality issues, use management, and exotic species control. These recommendations, which include trend monitoring for water quality, are designed to identify potential problem areas or conflicts before they become widespread or severe.

INTRODUCTION

The Chain O' Lakes is a group of 22 mostly interconnected lakes in the Towns of Dayton and Farmington, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

The lakes are, in general, relatively small, highly developed, groundwater fed and located in a sandy, mostly level watershed. The lakes are a major tourist attraction for Waupaca County and occasionally receive excessive recreational use.

The Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association (CLPOA), which serves as the main steward for the resource, was formed in the 1960's and currently has about 800 voting members (1). The CLPOA received its first Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Lake Management Planning Grant in April, 1991. IPS Environmental & Analytical Services (IPS) of Appleton, Wisconsin was selected as their consultant for management plan development.

The Chain O' Lakes was delineated into five Project Groups (Table 1) for management planning purposes. Phase I efforts included baseline assessment activities (for water quality and aquatic plants) and a public involvement program. Specific physical properties, preliminary methods, and other introductory and technical information for the Chain O' Lakes and the respective Project Groups were presented in the Phase I reports (printed 1993).

Table 1. Lake Management Planning Project Groups, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

<u>Upper Chain</u>	<u>Middle Chain</u>	<u>Lower Chain</u>
Otter Lake	Nessling Lake	Ottman Lake
Taylor Lake	McCrossen Lake	Bass Lake
George Lake	Round Lake	Youngs Lake
Sunset Lake	Limekiln Lake	Beasley Lake
Rainbow Lake		Long Lake
		Columbia Lake
<u>East Chain</u>	<u>Little Chain</u>	
Dake Lake	Orlando Lake	
Miner Lake	Knight Lake	
	Manomin Lake	
	Pope Lake	
	Marl Lake	

A Phase II grant was received in August, 1993; Phase II efforts included continuation of the water quality monitoring and public involvement programs, analysis of a recreational use questionnaire (circulated under Phase I) and more intensive assessment of areas of concern in the watershed. This report presents the results of these Phase II lake management planning efforts for the Upper Chain O' Lakes.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

The Chain O' Lakes is a group of "kettle" lakes in the southwest corner of Waupaca County, Wisconsin (Fig. 1). Kettle lakes were formed when ice was pushed into the soil by retreating glaciers; the depressions subsequently filled with water when the ice blocks melted. The Upper Chain consists of Otter, Taylor, George, Sunset and Rainbow Lakes in the northeast portion of the Chain.

Predominant shoreline area substrates for the Upper Chain are sand and marl with localized areas of muck and detritus. Aquatic plants are present but exhibit limited growth because of sandy bottom material. Otter Lake, with the shallowest average depth and relatively high organic bottom type, has the most aquatic plant growth of the Upper Chain.

Generally, groundwater inflow to the Chain O' Lakes is from the northwest. Groundwater input was most visible and documented in Sunset Lake (south and west shores), Otter Lake (northwest shore) and George Lake (north shore).

Rainbow Lake is the largest (166 acres, 45% of the total surface area) and deepest (95 feet) lake in the Upper Chain. Other lake areas include George (5 acres, 2%), Taylor (35 acres, 14%), Otter (14 acres, 5%) and Sunset (89 acres, 34%) (2).

Figure 1. Location Map, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County,
Wisconsin.

Public boat ramps are available at about ten locations on the Chain. Most of the connecting channels on the Chain are navigable for powerboats and all but one (Ottman - Youngs) are

navigable with a canoe. The Upper Chain has boat ramp access

points at Clearwater Harbor and off Pine Ridge Lane on the north shore of Taylor Lake.

Because of intensive recreational use, the Towns of Dayton and Farmington and the CLPOA adopted ordinances to regulate boat speeds on the Chain. Except for the largest lakes (Columbia, Long, Rainbow and Round), all lakes on the Chain have a "no wake" speed limit. Water skiing on these lakes is limited to 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on weekends and Holidays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Monday and Friday, and 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday.

METHODS

Watershed Characteristics

Most watershed information was obtained during the appraisal process of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Priority Watershed (TWRPW) Project. The appraisal began February, 1994 and is scheduled to be completed in 1995. Pertinent information from the appraisal as it relates to the Chain O' Lakes is included in the Field Data Discussion section of this report.

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality samples were taken on July 15 and September 23, 1992, February 2, May 20, August 17 and October 10, 1993, and January 24, May 3, August 3 and September 22, 1994. Samples were collected three feet below the surface and three feet above bottom for all lakes (Table 2, Fig. 2); because of budget constraints and similarity of data, sampling at Site 1002 (George Lake) and Site 1006 (Sunset Lake - West of Onaway Island) was discontinued (after May, 1993) during Phase II. Parameters measured in the field were Secchi depth, water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), and conductivity (see the Phase I document for specific equipment and methods information).

Water samples were also collected at Site 10E1, the storm sewer outfall to George Lake (Table 2). Samples were collected by IPS

or members of the CLPOA (with IPS instruction) on May 20, August 17 and October 6, 1993 and May 3, July 6 (surface runoff event), and August 3, 1994.

Table 2. Sample Station Descriptions, Upper Chain, 1992 - 1994.

REGULAR MONITORING

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Site Number</u>	<u>Depth</u>
Rainbow (Deepest Point)	1001	95 feet
George (Deepest Point)	1002 ¹	30 feet
Taylor (Deepest Point)	1003	58 feet
Otter (Deepest Point)	1004	40 feet
Sunset (Deepest Point)	1005	63 feet
Sunset (West of Onaway)	1006 ¹	59 feet

Event Site Description

10E1 Storm sewer outfall near the Wisconsin
Veterans Home at George Lake

¹ site discontinued after 05/93 sample date

Figure 2. Sample Station Locations, Upper Chain, 1992 - 1994.

Recreational Use

A recreational use survey of the CLPOA membership was conducted to obtain property and lake use, water use opinions and demographics information. About 800 questionnaires were distributed (one per household) by CLPOA neighborhood volunteers to maximize the return rate. A sample survey questionnaire is included in Appendix I.

Exotic Species

Visual observations [including a full shoreline cruise and in-lake observations (raking and SCUBA)] were made throughout the Phase I and II grant periods to document the occurrence of exotic species. Target species included Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*).

Public Involvement Program

Public involvement activities were coordinated to inform and educate the CLPOA about lake management in general and specifics regarding the Chain O' Lakes resource. Activities included news releases, IPS newsletters, article preparation for CLPOA newsletters, meeting attendance and presentations to the CLPOA and other interested parties. Public involvement activities are summarized in Appendix II.

FIELD DATA DISCUSSION

Watershed Characteristics

The Chain O' Lakes watershed is estimated to be 33,819 acres or 17% of the entire TWRPW (3). Land use for the Chain O' Lakes subwatershed was determined during the 1994 - 1995 inventory to be: non-irrigated agriculture, 16,931 acres (50%); irrigated agriculture, 2,205 acres (7%); forested, 10,921 acres (32%); wetland (including surface water), 1,673 acres (5%); and developed areas, 2,089 acres (6%) (Fig. 3).

There were 220 landowners who had livestock operations in the TWRPW, of which 168 (76%) had more than 20 animal units and 52 (24%) had 20 or fewer animal units. Sixty-two percent of the barnyards were surface drained; 38% were internally drained (4).

Figure 3. Land Uses in the Chain O' Lakes Subwatershed, 1994.

Groundwater

Nitrate was identified as a contaminant of concern in the Wolf River Basin Plan (5) and was targeted for analyses in the TWRPW Project groundwater appraisal. Relative to other subwatersheds in the TWRPW Project, residential well samples in the Chain O' Lakes subwatershed had the lowest average nitrate levels [2.59 milligrams per liter (mg/l)] (Table 3). Fifty-seven percent of the Chain O' Lakes subwatershed well samples were below 2 mg/l; nitrate levels over 2 mg/l are generally considered indicative of human impact on groundwater. Thirty-two well samples (8.2%) in the Chain O' Lakes subwatershed were over the health standard of 10 mg/l (4).

Table 3. Well Nitrate Data by Subwatershed for the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Priority Watershed Project, 1995.

<u>Subwatershed</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>>2 mg/l</u>	<u>>10 mg/l</u>	<u>>20 mg/l</u>	<u>Average</u>
Upper Tomorrow	258	168	66	20	6.82
Spring Creek	275	154	39	5	4.71
Chain O' Lakes	389	136	30	2	2.59
Crystal River	266	117	22	5	3.27
Waupaca/ Weyauwega	63	15	11	4	5.31
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	1,251	590	168	36	4.54
Percent	100%	47%	13%	3%	

Surface water nitrate levels were also assessed during periods of highest groundwater contribution to the Tomorrow/Waupaca River system. Various creek samples taken March 1, 1994 or January 20, 1995 averaged 3.06 and 3.52 mg/l, respectively (Table 4). The highest nitrate levels were observed in Radley and Murray Creeks during January, 1995.

Table 4. Nitrate Levels (mg/l) for Surface Water in the Chain O' Lakes Subwatershed, 1994 - 1995.

	<u>03/01/94</u>	<u>01/20/95</u>
Radley Creek (South Road)	3.51	5.06
Radley Creek (1st Avenue)		7.1
Hartman Creek (Rural Road)	0.94	1.03
Emmon's Creek (Rural Road)	2.48	2.18
Emmon's Creek (3rd Avenue)		1.97
Murray Creek (South Road)	2.77	2.37
Murray Creek (10th Road)		6.0
Tomorrow/Waupaca Average	3.06	3.52

Lakes

A computer model applied by WDNR to the western portion of the Chain O' Lakes indicated that the Chain has a natural ability to

remove phosphorus from the water column via marl precipitation. Marl (calcium carbonate) binds with phosphorus and settles to the lake bottom.

Overall, the lakes modeled (Marl, Pope, Manomin, Orlando, Knight, Ottman, Youngs, Bass, Beasley and Long) showed a 36% reduction of (outflowing versus inflowing) phosphorus. Reduction ranged from 8% for Orlando Lake to 90% for Marl Lake (4). Phosphorus levels measured during Phase I and Phase II efforts for these lakes were near or below levels predicted by the model.

Sediment and Nutrient Delivery

Sediment delivery was estimated to be less than expected for the Chain O' Lakes subwatershed; the Chain subwatershed included 7.7% of the cropland draining to streams for the TWRPW but had only 6.0% of the sediment delivery (146 tons per year). With an estimated nine pounds of phosphorus per ton of sediment, phosphorus delivery is 1,313 pounds per year. Sediment was estimated to be entirely from upland sources, as none of the 21.8 miles of streambank were observed to be degraded (4).

Water Quality

Current data indicated similar water quality among the Upper Chain lakes and trends similar to those observed during Phase I.

Otter Lake continued to exhibit higher nutrients than the other

Upper Chain lakes. All nutrient data reflected seasonal influences of stratification/mixing and surface or groundwater inflows.

Average surface total nitrogen (1.46 mg/l) was highest in Otter Lake and lowest (for continuously sampled lakes, 1.03 mg/l) in Taylor Lake (Tables 5 - 10). Average surface total phosphorus was also highest in Otter Lake (0.015 mg/l); lowest levels were observed in Sunset Lake (0.009 mg/l). Lowest surface total nitrogen or phosphorus levels were generally observed during Summer stratification (Figs. 4 & 5). Higher total nitrogen or phosphorus levels were observed during Winter (after fall overturn and when groundwater influence was probably greatest) or during Spring (un- or weakly stratified and possibly influenced by surface water inflows).

Phosphorus levels for the Upper Chain were lower than those typical for stratified lakes (0.023 mg/l) and for lakes in the central region in Wisconsin (0.020 mg/l) (6); levels were at or below those typical for the ecoregion in which the Chain is located (0.010 - 0.014 mg/l) (7). NOTE: Some data were indicated to have exceeded the recommended maximum holding time before analysis. A study has shown, however, that the data remain accurate for samples analyzed well after the 28-day holding time (8).

Table 5. Water Quality Parameters, Station 1001, Rainbow Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE									
		<u>7/15/92</u>	<u>9/23/92</u>	<u>2/02/93</u>	<u>5/20/93</u>	<u>8/17/93</u>	<u>10/06/93</u>	<u>1/24/94</u>	<u>5/03/94</u>	<u>8/03/94</u>	<u>9/22/94</u>
Secchi (feet)		11.0	8.4	NR ²	7.9	8.0	8.7	NR	8.5	8.0	7.0
Cloud Cover (percent)		10	0	10	10	100	0	0	60	80	100
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	S	21.14	17.05	2.42	14.94	24.51	12.48	2.03	9.94	23.83	21.51
	B	4.63	5.01	3.16	4.40	5.06	5.10	3.03	5.14	5.76	6.07
pH (std units)	S	8.46	8.86	7.26	NR	8.20	7.60	6.88	7.61	8.25	NR
	B	6.47	7.19	6.75	NR	5.95	6.40	6.54	6.72	6.11	NR
D.O. (mg/l)	S	9.44	9.36	8.87	10.93	8.99	9.26	11.06	12.16	9.52	8.69
	B	0.11	0.48	1.33	0.22	0.15	0.67	6.67	3.75	0.45	0.43
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	S	304	287	330	331	294	326	346	341	310	277
	B	364	377	348	355	360	392	362	355	385	360
Laboratory pH (surface units)	S	NR	NR	NR	8.41	NR	NR	NR	8.27	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	7.65	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	156	NR	NR	NR	169	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	175	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Solids (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	214	NR	NR	NR	220	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	236	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.6 ³	0.48 ³
	B	3.8	2.8	1.4	1.5	0.5	2.6	1.0	0.8	0.54 ³	0.55 ³
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.026	0.028	0.497	0.061	0.022	0.109	0.422	0.199	0.016	0.048
	B	2.586	2.07	0.928	0.898	0.024	2.02	0.583	0.377	0.029	0.039
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	S	0.418	0.242	0.280	0.658	0.405	0.457	0.473	0.730	0.379	0.328
	B	ND ⁴	ND	0.221	0.306	0.407	ND	0.533	0.685	0.401	0.310
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	1.018	0.642	1.180	1.258	0.905	0.957	1.373	1.430	0.979	0.808
	B	3.8	2.8	1.621	1.806	0.907	2.6	1.533	1.485	0.941	0.860
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	S	0.008	0.005	0.008	ND	0.009	0.008	0.019	0.011	0.007	0.034 ³
	B	0.26	0.068	0.042	0.04	0.008	0.048	0.018	0.016	0.009	0.008 ³
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	S	0.002	ND	NR	ND	ND	0.004	0.002	NR	ND	ND
	B	0.186	0.035	0.019	ND	ND	0.013	0.001	NR	0.002	ND
Nit./Phos Ratio	S	127.3	128.4	147.5	--	100.6	119.6	72.3	130.0	139.9	23.8
	B	14.6	41.2	38.6	45.2	113.4	54.2	85.2	92.8	104.6	107.5
Chlorophyll <u>a</u> (ug/l)	S	4	4.47	NR	4.76	5	6.89	NR	6.31	4.35	2.89

¹ S = surface, B = bottom; ² NR = no reading;

³ holding time exceeded by SLOH; ⁴ ND = not detectable;

Table 6. Water Quality Parameters, Station 1002, George Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - May 1993.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE			
		<u>7/15/92</u>	<u>9/23/92</u>	<u>2/02/93</u>	<u>5/20/93</u>
Secchi (feet)		13.6	9.4	NR ²	9.1
Cloud Cover (percent)		10	0	10	70
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	S B	20.94 11.07	16.55 15.69	2.06 4.47	15.15 7.01
pH (std units)	S B	8.43 7.38	8.60 8.62	7.38 6.85	NR NR
D.O. (mg/l)	S B	10.38 0.51	8.65 7.85	10.05 0.58	10.89 0.69
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	S B	297 368	290 293	347 390	329 368
Laboratory pH (surface units)	S B	NR NR	NR NR	NR NR	8.38 7.76
Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	S B	NR NR	NR NR	NR NR	155 178
Total Solids (mg/l)	S B	NR NR	NR NR	NR NR	214 238
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	S B	0.6 3.1	0.5 0.6	1.0 1.6	0.6 1.6
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	S B	0.085 1.101	0.096 0.171	0.515 1.18	0.059 0.654
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	S B	0.297 0.016	0.138 0.130	0.277 0.018	0.562 0.182
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	S B	0.897 3.116	0.638 0.730	1.277 1.618	1.162 1.782
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	S B	0.009 0.131	0.010 0.013	0.014 0.044	ND ³ 0.05
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	S B	0.002 0.002	0.005 0.004	NR NR	ND ND
Nit./Phos Ratio	S B	99.7 23.8	63.8 56.2	91.2 36.8	-- 35.6
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ug/l)	S	3	3.71	NR	3.75

¹ S = surface, B = bottom; ² NR = no reading; ³ ND = not detectable;

Table 7. Water Quality Parameters, Station 1003, Taylor Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE									
		<u>7/15/92</u>	<u>9/23/92</u>	<u>2/02/93</u>	<u>5/20/93</u>	<u>8/17/93</u>	<u>10/06/93</u>	<u>1/24/94</u>	<u>5/03/94</u>	<u>8/03/94</u>	<u>9/22/94</u>
Secchi (feet)		12.2	9.3	NR ²	9.1	NR	8.2	NR	9.0	9.0	8.0
Cloud Cover (percent)		10	0	10	100	50	0	0	90	80	100
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	S	20.99	16.23	3.97	14.54	25.10	12.78	3.18	11.57	24.46	21.44
	B	5.33	5.91	4.27	4.66	5.47	5.95	3.73	6.22	7.21	7.76
pH (std units)	S	8.55	8.38	7.10	NR	8.23	NR	6.97	7.63	8.26	NR
	B	6.63	6.94	6.57	NR	5.87	NR	6.61	6.65	5.95	NR
D.O. (mg/l)	S	9.97	9.29	8.38	11.10	8.99	9.85	11.68	12.18	9.38	8.34
	B	0.15	0.76	0.37	0.48	0.10	0.78	6.41	0.99	0.45	0.43
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	S	289	287	336	329	289	323	359	336	300	219
	B	394	411	393	410	395	428	382	370	394	370
Laboratory pH (surface units)	S	NR	NR	NR	8.32	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	8.02	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	155	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	190	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Solids (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	214	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	262	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.66 ³	0.61 ³
	B	3.5	3.9	1.8	1.8	2.8	3.2	1.1	1.4	3.09 ³	2.95 ³
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.042	0.057	0.495	0.053	0.037	0.129	0.420	0.160	0.056	0.069
	B	2.405	2.87	1.03	1.19	2.04	2.59	0.586	0.845	1.80	2.100
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	S	0.241	0.170	0.271	0.587	0.303	0.401	0.472	0.646	0.251	0.192
	B	ND ⁴	ND	0.055	ND	ND	ND	0.419	0.196	ND	ND
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.741	0.670	1.171	1.187	0.903	1.201	1.572	1.346	0.911	0.802
	B	3.5	3.9	1.855	1.8	2.8	3.2	1.519	1.596	3.09	2.95
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	S	0.008	0.009	0.009	ND	0.011	0.016	0.014	0.012	0.011	0.008 ³
	B	0.072	0.064	0.105	0.07	0.037	0.039	0.011	0.031	0.046	0.031 ³
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	S	0.005	0.002	0.036 ³	ND	0.002	ND	0.003	NR	ND	0.002
	B	0.005	0.015	0.001 ³	ND	ND	ND	0.001	NR	ND	ND
Nit./Phos Ratio	S	92.6	74.4	130.1	--	82.1	75.1	112.3	112.2	82.8	100.3
	B	48.6	60.9	17.7	25.7	75.7	82.1	138.1	51.5	67.2	--
Chlorophyll <u>a</u> (ug/l)	S	3	3.91	NR	4.25	4	6.85	NR	5.29	5.40	3.65

¹ S = surface, B = bottom; ² NR = no reading;

³ holding time exceeded by SLOH; ⁴ ND = not detectable;

Table 8. Water Quality Parameters, Station 1004, Otter Lake, Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE									
		<u>7/15/92</u>	<u>9/23/92</u>	<u>2/02/93</u>	<u>5/20/93</u>	<u>8/17/93</u>	<u>10/06/93</u>	<u>1/24/94</u>	<u>5/03/94</u>	<u>8/03/94</u>	<u>9/22/94</u>
Secchi (feet)		13.1	12.1	NR ²	15.5	7.0	9.4	NR	11.5	11.0	12.0
Cloud Cover (percent)		30	0	10	100	100	0	0	90	80	100
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	S	21.21	16.71	3.55	13.99	23.31	12.34	2.50	11.79	23.42	20.78
	B	8.83	9.16	4.54	6.60	8.58	8.85	4.28	7.32	9.32	9.51
pH (std units)	S	8.33	NR	6.89	NR	7.62	NR	6.45	7.50	7.85	NR
	B	6.71	NR	6.72	NR	6.19	NR	6.32	6.50	6.36	NR
D.O. (mg/l)	S	10.75	7.58	5.38	10.23	9.61	9.89	7.98	11.69	9.26	7.68
	B	0.12	0.61	1.27	0.49	0.16	0.89	3.28	0.87	0.47	0.31
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	S	339	354	410	392	376	425	439	395	366	363
	B	420	420	427	439	418	451	454	444	438	396
Laboratory pH (surface units)	S	NR	NR	NR	8.14	NR	NR	NR	8.25	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	7.77	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	193	NR	NR	NR	204	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	223	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Solids (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	254	NR	NR	NR	264	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	286	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.50 ³	0.55 ³
	B	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.8	0.91 ³	1.25 ³
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.048	0.115	0.123	0.088	0.029	0.113	0.167	0.038	0.041	0.099
	B	0.304	0.758	0.288	0.266	0.015	0.894	0.350	0.405	0.424	0.927
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	S	0.321	0.280	1.56	1.01	0.629	1.35	1.81	1.33	0.487	0.597
	B	0.623	0.129	1.37	0.817	1.33	0.040	1.71	0.905	0.777	0.100
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.921	0.880	1.96	1.51	1.229	1.85	2.21	1.93	0.987	1.147
	B	1.323	1.329	1.97	1.417	1.83	1.540	2.41	1.705	1.687	1.35
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	S	0.013	0.017	0.007	0.02	0.014	0.015	0.018	0.026	0.0110 ³	0.010 ³
	B	0.027	0.046	0.022	0.03	0.015	0.079	0.026	0.034	0.1280 ³	0.171 ³
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	S	0.004	0.003	0.001 ³	ND	ND	ND	0.007	NR	ND	ND
	B	0.002	0.002	0.008 ³	0.002	ND	0.012	0.013	NR	0.091	0.132
Nit./Phos Ratio	S	70.8	51.8	280.0	75.5	87.8	123.3	122.8	74.2	89.7	114.7
	B	49.0	28.9	89.5	47.2	122.0	19.5	92.7	50.1	13.2	--
Chlorophyll <u>a</u> (ug/l)	S	5	4.97	NR	3.95	12	13.3	NR	4.69	6.39	3.26

1 S = surface, B = bottom; 2 NR = no reading; 3 holding time exceeded by SLOH; 4 ND = not detectable;

Table 9. Water Quality Parameters, Station 1005, Sunset Lake (Deep Pt.), Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - September 1994.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE									
		<u>7/15/92</u>	<u>9/23/92</u>	<u>2/02/93</u>	<u>5/20/93</u>	<u>8/17/93</u>	<u>10/06/93</u>	<u>1/24/94</u>	<u>5/03/94</u>	<u>8/03/94</u>	<u>9/22/94</u>
Secchi (feet)		10.2	9.8	NR ²	8.2	8.0	8.5	NR	9.0	8.5	7.0
Cloud Cover (percent)		30	0	10	70	100	0	0	60	80	100
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	S	21.56	16.97	1.66	14.69	24.40	12.74	1.83	10.89	24.12	21.46
	B	6.26	6.57	3.35	5.52	6.34	6.47	3.39	7.22	8.16	9.77
pH (std units)	S	8.50	8.60	7.33	NR	8.27	NR	6.90	7.65	8.24	NR
	B	6.57	7.20	6.80	NR	5.99	NR	6.38	6.94	6.05	NR
D.O. (mg/l)	S	9.67	9.45	10.05	11.13	9.53	9.74	11.07	11.66	9.57	8.65
	B	0.14	0.72	1.26	3.17	0.14	0.73	2.04	6.79	0.46	0.45
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	S	304	290	333	332	295	327	345	342	310	279
	B	362	395	364	349	357	405	375	347	388	378
Laboratory pH (surface units)	S	NR	NR	NR	8.33	NR	NR	NR	8.22	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	7.77	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	156	NR	NR	NR	169	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	168	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Solids (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	216	NR	NR	NR	224	NR	NR
	B	NR	NR	NR	228	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.64 ³	0.51 ³
	B	2.7	3.2	1.3	1.1	2.2	2.7	1.3	1.0	0.64 ³	3.63 ³
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.038	0.034	0.465	0.060	0.021	0.103	0.431	0.189	0.019	0.039
	B	1.714	2.56	0.904	0.549	1.58	2.05	0.697	0.442	0.051	2.66
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	S	0.435	0.247	0.383	0.677	0.465	0.487	0.469	0.769	0.406	0.335
	B	ND ³	ND	0.703	0.497	ND	ND	0.690	0.599	0.418	ND
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.935	0.747	1.283	1.277	0.865	1.087	1.369	1.369	1.046	0.845
	B	2.7	3.2	2.003	1.597	2.2	2.7	1.990	1.599	1.058	3.630
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	S	0.009	0.009	0.009	ND	0.006	0.008	0.015	0.013	0.0050 ³	0.005 ³
	B	0.058	0.048	0.029	0.040	0.038	0.035	0.016	0.026	0.009	0.031 ³
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	S	0.003	0.004	ND ³	ND	ND	0.003	0.001	NR	ND	ND
	B	0.003	0.002	0.003 ³	0.002	ND	0.003	0.001	NR	ND	ND
Nit./Phos Ratio	S	103.9	83.0	142.6	--	144.2	135.9	91.3	105.3	209.2	169.0
	B	46.6	66.7	69.1	39.9	57.9	77.1	124.4	61.5	117.6	--
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ug/l)	S	4	4.12	NR	4.83	4	7.23	NR	5.35	3.89	3.57

¹ S = surface, B = bottom; ² NR = no reading;

³ holding time exceeded by SLOH; ⁴ ND = not detectable;

Table 10. Water Quality Parameters, Station 1006, Sunset Lake (West of Onaway Island), Chain O' Lakes, July 1992 - May 1993.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE			
		<u>7/15/92</u>	<u>9/23/92</u>	<u>2/02/93</u>	<u>5/20/93</u>
Secchi (feet)		9.3	9.6	NR ²	8.0
Cloud Cover (percent)		30	0	10	60
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	S	21.64	16.92	1.95	14.45
	B	6.95	7.03	4.05	5.49
pH (std units)	S	8.54	8.51	7.41	NR
	B	7.14	7.01	6.75	NR
D.O. (mg/l)	S	10.30	9.65	10.68	11.19
	B	0.47	0.70	0.60	0.41
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	S	303	291	336	333
	B	470	495	392	401
Laboratory pH (surface units)	S	NR	NR	NR	8.37
	B	NR	NR	NR	7.65
Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	156
	B	NR	NR	NR	186
Total Solids (mg/l)	S	NR	NR	NR	214
	B	NR	NR	NR	258
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6
	B	0.9	4.2	1.5	1.2
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	0.032	0.032	0.433	0.066
	B	0.235	3.27	1.01	0.834
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	S	0.439	0.274	0.364	0.729
	B	0.584	ND ²	1.35	1.16
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	S	1.139	0.874	1.164	1.329
	B	1.484	4.2	2.85	2.36
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	S	0.008	0.006	0.011	ND
	B	0.024	0.039	0.050	0.03
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	S	0.002	0.002	0.001 ³	0.002
	B	0.003	0.002	0.005 ³	0.002
Nit./Phos Ratio	S	142.4	145.7	105.8	--
	B	61.8	107.7	57.0	78.7
Chlorophyll <u>a</u> (ug/l)	S	5	4.23	NR	4.83

1 S = surface, B = bottom; 2 NR = no reading; 3 ND = not detectable;

Figure 4. Surface Total Nitrogen Trends for the Upper Chain, 1991 - 1994.

Figure 5. Surface Total Phosphorus Trends for the Upper Chain,

Upper Chain O' Lakes

23

Phase II

1991 - 1994.

Monitoring at Site 10E1 indicated similar readings for the single runoff event (July 6, 1994) and regular monitoring (all other dates) (Table 11). Average total nitrogen for all dates was 1.15 mg/l; average total phosphorus was 0.031 mg/l.

Flow was measured on May 3, 1994 at Site 10E1 and from visual observations was considered average. Flow was 0.12 cubic feet per second [(cfs) or 0.080 million gallons per day (mgd)]. This rate combined with nutrient levels above, resulted in an estimated annual discharge of 3.43 kilograms (7.55 pounds) of phosphorus and 127.1 kilograms (280.2 pounds) of nitrogen to George Lake (Fig. 6 - 8).

Hartman's Creek flow was estimated (9) at 5.90 cfs (3.81 mgd); this flow, when combined with field instantaneous measurements of total phosphorus and nitrogen, yielded loading rates of 15.0 kilograms (33.0 pounds) phosphorus and 330.9 kilograms (729.4 pounds) nitrogen per year to Pope Lake. Similarly, Emmon's Creek inputs to Long Lake of the Lower Chain at an average flow of 30.3 cfs (19.6 mgd) were estimated at 1,110 kilograms (2,448 pounds) phosphorus and 46,580 kilograms (102,690 pounds) nitrogen. (Fig. 6 - 8). These inputs far exceeded the TWRPW Project phosphorus input estimate of 1,313 pounds.

Table 11. Event Water Quality Parameters, Station 10E1, King Storm Sewer (Near Veterans Home), Chain O' Lakes, May 1993 - August 1994.

PARAMETER	SAMPLE ¹	DATE					
		<u>5/20/93</u>	<u>8/17/93</u>	<u>10/06/93</u>	<u>5/03/94</u>	<u>7/06/94</u> ²	<u>8/03/94</u>
Temperature (degrees Celsius)	M	NR ³	NR	15.64	13.84	NR	NR
pH (surface units)	M	NR	NR	7.30	7.53	NR	NR
D.O. (mg/l)	M	NR	NR	7.08	9.78	NR	NR
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	M	544	NR	457	422	NR	NR
Tot. Kjeld. Nitrogen (mg/l)	M	ND ⁴	ND	0.2	ND	ND	0.32 ⁵
Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l)	M	0.013	0.026	0.021	0.018	0.055	0.029
NO ₂ + NO ₃ Nit. (mg/l)	M	0.810	1.07	1.44	1.46	1.01	0.613
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	M	0.810	1.07	1.64	1.46	1.01	0.933
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	M	0.08	0.045	0.022	0.019	0.016	0.004
Dissolved Phos. (mg/l)	M	0.056	0.044	0.021	NR	0.013	ND
Nit./Phos Ratio	M	10.1	23.8	74.5	76.8	63.1	233.3

¹ M = mid-depth; ² actual runoff event sample; ³ NR = no reading;

⁴ ND = not detectable; ⁵ holding time exceeded by SLOH

Figure 6. Average Flow Contribution from Overland Sources, Chain O' Lakes, 1994.

Figure 7. Average Nitrogen Contribution from Overland Sources, Chain O' Lakes, 1994.

Figure 8. Average Phosphorus Contribution from Overland Sources,
Chain O' Lakes, 1994.

Recreational Use

About 43% of all Chain O' Lakes respondents indicated they were permanent residents. Average occupancy for all respondents was 7.8 months (Table 12); seasonal residents averaged 4.7 months.

Table 12. Comparison of Recreational Use Parameters for Various User Groups, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

Parameter	User Group			
	<u>Upper Chain</u>	<u>Fast Lakes</u>	<u>Slow Lakes</u>	<u>Entire Chain</u>
Average monthly occupancy	7.4	7.5	8.1	7.8
Average number of watercraft (per response)	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.9
Average number of adults (per respondent household)	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4
Average number of children 12 - 18 years old (per respondent household)	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4
Average number of children less than 12 years old (per respondent household)	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5
Average respondent age	57.6	59.1	57.7	58.3
Percent of respondents leaving comments	53.5	51.9	44.9	48.0

Respondents indicated a total of 1222 watercraft with an average of 2.9 per household (Table 12). Pro-rated (to include all

landowners) results would estimate almost 2,300 watercraft on the

Chain O' Lakes, or 3.2 boats per acre (not including visitor watercraft). Most common watercraft types (in order) were canoes, pontoon boats, row/paddle boats and boats with less than 25 horsepower motors.

Upper Chain resident responses did not differ substantially from those of the Chain, as a whole, or from "fast" [wake lake residents (Rainbow, Round, Columbia and Long Lakes)] or "slow" [no wake lake residents (all others)]. The Upper Chain user group appeared to be slightly more against establishment of a park or beach on the Chain when compared to respondents from the Chain overall or from the fast or slow lake groups.

Upper Chain respondents agreed (76% "strongly agree" or "agree" responses) there are too many watercraft [primarily on weekends and holidays (App. I)] and that the number of watercraft cause safety problems (75%) (primary causes identified as non-resident and commercial watercraft) and diminish user enjoyment. They agreed there was adequate water safety enforcement on weekdays (79%); fewer agreed for weekends (68%) and holidays (60%) (Table 13). Consensus was only somewhat in favor of enactment of more ordinances and limiting boat numbers.

Respondents agreed that there was adequate public boater access to the Chain (86%) and most disagreed ("strongly disagree" or

"disagree" responses) with establishment of a park (75%) or beach (70%) on the Chain. Upper Chain respondents, however, were quite evenly split on the need for more public restrooms.

Table 13. Percentage of "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" Responses for Various User Groups, Chain O' Lakes, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

Opinion	User Group			
	<u>Upper Chain</u>	<u>Fast Lakes</u>	<u>Slow Lakes</u>	<u>Entire Chain</u>
There are too many watercraft on the Chain	76	79	77	77
The current number of watercraft causes safety problems	75	77	75	76
There is adequate water safety enforcement:				
weekdays	79	82	85	84
weekends	68	60	69	65
holidays	60	58	62	60
Additional water use regulations need to be enacted and enforced	64	62	61	61
There should be limits set on the number of watercraft	56	54	54	54
There is adequate public boater access to the Chain	86	92	90	91
There should be more public restrooms on the Chain	48	52	47	50
There should be a public swimming beach on the Chain	30	36	34	35
There should be a public park on the shoreline of the Chain	25	29	29	29

Exotic Species

Eurasian Water Milfoil was not observed in the Upper Chain O' Lakes; aquatic plant surveys (1991) and visual observations (1991 - 1994) indicated only native water milfoil species (mainly *Myriophyllum exalbescens*), present in the Upper Chain. There were no observations of Zebra Mussels.

Purple Loosestrife, however, was present and locally abundant in a several areas of the Upper Chain. Major populations are at the channel to/from Otter Lake, the north and west shores of Otter Lake, north Onaway Island, and the north and south shores of George Lake (Fig. 9).

Purple Loosestrife is an exotic plant with a bright purple flower, originally propagated in the United States by the horticulture industry for flower gardens. It blooms late June to July and produces seeds soon after. The plant is able to outcompete native wetland vegetation and modify entire plant (and thus animal) assemblages.

Figure 9. Purple Loosestrife Growth Areas, Upper and Middle

Upper Chain O' Lakes

34

Phase II

Chain, 1994.

BASELINE CONCLUSIONS

Watershed Characteristics

TWRPW Program well sample nitrate results, despite some instances of concern (e.g., > 10 mg/l), indicated that the Chain O' Lakes subwatershed had the lowest average nitrate readings for the entire Tomorrow/Waupaca River Watershed. Surface water samples indicated variable nitrate readings for the Chain subwatershed with highest readings in Murray and Radley Creeks.

Sediment/nutrient delivery for the Chain subwatershed of the TWRPW Project appraisal was estimated to be lower than all other subwatersheds. The Chain O' Lakes subwatershed contained almost 8% of the surface drained farmland but was estimated at only 6% of the sediment delivery; no stream degradation was observed for the 21.8 miles of streams in the Chain subwatershed.

Water Quality

Regular water quality monitoring in the Upper Chain during Phase II, as during Phase I, indicated good to very good water quality.

Surface total phosphorus and total nitrogen levels were lowest during Summer when the water columns were stratified. Higher total phosphorus and total nitrogen levels were observed during Winter or Spring when surface or groundwater influences were greater and the water columns were mixed or, at most, weakly

stratified. Otter Lake continued to have the highest overall nutrients, as would be expected given its relatively more productive habitat. In-lake nutrients for all lakes continued to be near or below levels expected for stratified lakes, lakes in the central region of Wisconsin and lakes in the ecoregion in which the Chain is located; marl precipitation apparently reduces phosphorus levels in at least some Chain lakes.

Flow and nutrient contribution via the storm sewer is relatively small compared to other overland sources to the Chain. Existing estimates of total overland nutrient input to the Chain appear questionable because of the considerable discrepancy between the TWRPW Project and the estimated flow - field measured phosphorus estimate methods.

Recreational Use

Upper Chain resident responses to the recreational use survey were in general agreement with those from the Chain as a whole and from "fast" and "slow" lake user groups. Watercraft use on the Chain is high and respondents generally agreed that the current number of watercraft caused safety problems. They also indicated that water safety enforcement was adequate, but fewer agreed during weekend or holiday periods of heavy recreational use. Respondents were only somewhat agreeable to additional use regulations or limiting the number of watercraft. There was

relatively low interest in establishment of a public park or beach on the Chain but respondents were evenly divided as to the need for more public restrooms on the Chain.

Exotic Species

There were no observations of Zebra Mussels or Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Chain. Purple Loosestrife, which is widely distributed in Wisconsin and Waupaca County, has become established in several areas of the Upper, Middle and Lower Chains.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Watershed: The Chain O' Lakes is significantly influenced by groundwater and receives some surface water inflow from the watershed. Residents should be made aware of the potential effects of watershed uses on their resource. In addition to a continuous focus on "yard management", they should be strongly encouraged to keep abreast of and support the TWRPW Project.

- Residents in the Upper Chain watershed should have private wells tested for nitrates and/or pesticide levels.
- Groundwater samples should be collected at various points in the Chain O' Lakes watershed to determine areas of concern.

Water Quality: Water quality in the Upper Chain is currently very good but a focused monitoring strategy should be continued. These data could provide a long term trend assessment and detect detrimental influences before effects become widespread or severe.

- Otter, Taylor, Sunset (deepest point) and Rainbow Lake sites should be considered "indicator lakes" for Upper Chain trend monitoring. Surface only samples during Winter, after ice out and three times during the Summer would minimize collection and laboratory analysis costs.

- More event samples should be collected at Site 10E1; flow determination and rainfall monitoring would enhance the value of this information.
- Groundwater nutrient and flow direction/rates should be collected for the Chain O' Lakes system when feasible.

Recreational Use: Chain O' Lakes resident recreational use survey results suggest that use, during summer weekends and holidays, is at or near saturation levels and that most perceive the problems related to non-resident and commercial watercraft. There does not appear, however, to be a clear consensus that additional regulations are desirable to address the situation. The CLPOA, then, should form a committee, or enlist some outside assistance, to address direct education or prevention measures to attempt minimization of use conflicts; these may include

- Development of maps for distribution which define best potential use zones for different recreational activities (skiing, fishing, canoeing, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, pleasure boating, dining, snowmobiling, etc.),
- Brochures, for visitors at access points, emphasizing "water use ethics" along with information on available restrooms, access points and applicable regulations and ordinances,

- Development of water accessible restrooms and waste disposal facilities for boaters,
- Initiation of a reasonable ramp fee at some/all access points with the money collected directed toward access maintenance or lake management/protection activities, and
- Riparian landowners education about pertinent ordinances (dock design/size, boat numbers per pier, building near lakeshores, near-lake improvements, etc.).

Exotic Species: Of the three exotic species of most current concern, only purple loosestrife appears to be established in the Chain O' Lakes.

- Identified purple loosestrife stands should be treated as soon as it is practical to do so; localized growth areas or individual plants should be treated first and more extensive growth areas later. It is best to treat plants before flowering (May to mid June). Plants are treated by cutting the top off and spraying the remainder with a Roundup-surfactant mix; plants in standing water should be treated with a Rodeo-surfactant mix. Chemicals can be applied using hand spray bottles or larger chemical sprayers. Sites should be revisited in subsequent years to treat remnant individuals.

- An exotic species watch group should be organized to monitor or remove exotic species (i.e., Purple Loosestrife, Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Water Milfoil) when encountered. Members should coordinate with the WDNR Exotic Species Program and inform the CLPOA membership and public on the hazards of exotic species as they relate to the Chain O' Lakes.

Public Involvement: Informational and educational programs for the CLPOA membership and public should be continued. Meetings, presentations, newsletters and/or news releases should continue to include information on groundwater and surface water quality, recreational use issues and the spread or control of exotic species.

LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Personal communication, Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association.
2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 1991. Wisconsin Lakes. PUBL-FM-800 91. 174 p.
3. Personal communication, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Nonpoint Source Program. Tomorrow/Waupaca Priority Watershed Program.
4. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Nonpoint Source Program. Tomorrow/Waupaca Priority Watershed Appraisal Data. Unpublished
5. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Water Quality Management Program. 1991. Wolf River Basin Plan. 301 pp.
6. Lillie, R. A. and J. W. Mason. 1983. Limnological Characteristics of Wisconsin Lakes. WDNR Technical Bulletin No. 138. 117 pp.
7. Omernik, James M. et. al. 1988. "Summer Total Phosphorus in Lakes: A Map of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, USA." Environmental Management 12(6): 815-825.
8. Bowman, G. and Shuknecht, B. (State Laboratory of Hygiene). 1991. Memo regarding stability of total phosphorus and total kjeldahl nitrogen samples exceeding holding times. Unpublished.
9. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 1994. Flow and Nutrient Data for Hartman Creek, Emmon's Creek and Crystal River. Unpublished.

APPENDIX I
RECREATIONAL USE SURVEY RESULTS
Upper Chain O' Lakes Management Plan

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX I
(continued)

APPENDIX II
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES
Upper Chain O' Lakes Management Plan

The Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association (CLPOA) initiated steps to develop a comprehensive lake management plan under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Lake Management Planning Grant Program in the Fall of 1990. A public involvement program was immediately initiated as part of the planning process. The following is a summary of Phase I and Phase II major public involvement efforts.

Planning Advisory Committee

A working group comprised of the CLPOA officers, IPS and WDNR was established at the start of the program. The group provided planning direction and served as main reviewer of the draft plan document.

Brochures

A informational brochure titled "Chain O' Lakes Management Planning Program" was developed and distributed which outlined objectives, elements and ways for CLPOA members to get involved in the planning process.

A Phase I plan summary brochure was also produced. It was made available for CLPOA use and distribution when the plan document was approved by WDNR. The brochure described the main features of plan development, plan recommendations and other pertinent information. Another plan brochure will be produced upon conclusion of Phase II.

Meetings

IPS presented progress reports, provided information about the resource and interpretations of these results periodically and at CLPOA member meetings.

Print Media

After receipt of the grant award, a news release was issued to the Waupaca Post. The release highlighted information about the length and scope of the project and persons to contact for additional information.

A quarterly IPS newsletter entitled "Lake Management News" was developed and distributed to the CLPOA for the officers' use and distribution among the membership. A special "Chain O' Lakes" edition was also developed to notify the CLPOA of any late developments in the planning program. Information was also prepared for inclusion into the CLPOA newsletter.

**PHASE II
LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN
UPPER CHAIN O' LAKES
WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Prepared for

Chain O' Lakes Property Owners Association

by

December, 1995