

Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Grant
AIRR-016-06
Final Report
Aquatic Invasive Species Control

November 30, 2009

Prepared by: Kristine Maki

Project Scope

The Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department sponsored the Courte Oreilles Lake Association (COLA) in a three year project to chemically treat Curly leaf pondweed on Musky Bay in Lac Courte Oreilles.

Accomplishments

In 2007, 0.5 acres of curly leaf pondweed were treated on June 6 in the opening of Musky Bay to prevent spread into other areas on the lake. At that time, small scattered areas were found in a few other locations in the bay, but the real concern was curly leaf pondweed in areas where distribution by watercraft was likely.

A survey on May 27, 2008 by the Sawyer County AIS Coordinator found no large amounts of curly leaf pondweed in the opening on the bay where the previous treatment had been done. Curly leaf pondweed was present in the bay, but plants were just beginning to grow (very cold spring temperatures delayed growth of most aquatic macrophytes, curiously also delayed growth of curly leaf pondweed) and little curly leaf was found. COLA decided not to do any treatments in 2008 until a comprehensive plant survey was done in the bay to determine exact amount and location of curly leaf pondweed.

A point intercept survey was completed on June 24, 2008 in Musky Bay (document attached). A total of 6.4 acres of curly leaf pondweed was found scattered throughout Musky Bay. The largest bed found was 1.94 acres. It was decided to treat 7 acres of curly leaf pondweed in May of 2009 based on the findings on the point intercept survey.

On May 19, 2009, 6.425 acres of curly leaf pondweed were treated with Aquathol by Northern Aquatic Services. Approximately 50 pounds of herbicide was used (average 2.5 ppm). Two to three weeks post treatment the areas were surveyed by members of the lake association using the treatment GPS coordinates. No curly leaf pondweed was found in the areas of treatment. An additional 3-4 acres were found outside of the treatment areas. The treatment results seem to be quite good, but it is anticipated that additional years of treatment will be necessary due to turions in the sediment that would not be affected by herbicide treatment.

Final Outcome

A total of 7 acres of curly leaf pondweed were treated from 2007-2009 in Musky Bay of Lac Courte Oreilles. The results seem to be encouraging, but much will depend on the turion bank in the sediment and the regrowth the next spring. No volunteer monitoring hours were used towards this grant as the COLA Clean Boats/Clean Waters program required all volunteer hours generated by the lake association. Therefore, COLA contributed their 50% match with actual dollars. The grant was very successful overall