



The Sampler

December 23, 2013

The Sampler is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

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Web Highlights

This month's feature lake website is [Sand Pond](#), Marlow, NH

[NH Stocks Trout in Lakes to Boost Ice Fishing](#)

[The Human Lake](#)

[10 Cities That Could Run Out of Water](#)

Upcoming Events

[Silver Lake Summers: E.E. Cummings Revue](#)

January 2-5, 2014
Pontine Theatre
West End Studio
959 Islington St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

[NH Ice Fishing Tournatments](#)

Grants

[Federal Financial Assistance Available for NH Farmers and Forest Landowners](#)

United States Dept. of
Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Deadline: January 10, 2014

Wanted: Lake Ice Out Data for New Hampshire

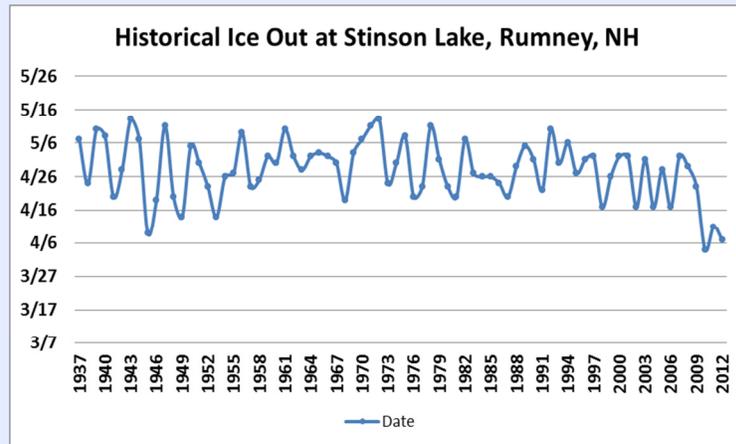
Winter has arrived in New Hampshire and brought with it the cold spells necessary to form ice on many of our lakes and even completely ice in some of our smaller ponds. Before we know it, spring will arrive causing the ice to melt and eventually leave our lakes. "Ice out", as we call it, and is the term typically used to describe when the ice has melted and broken up enough to navigate a boat from one end of the lake to the other. Many New Hampshire lakes have historical ice out records dating back to the early 1900's, Lakes Sunapee and Winnepesaukee to the 1880's. The record keepers of the past, present and future have an important job. Historical ice out records and observations tell an important story for our lakes and state. They help answer and track climatological trends, as well as interpret summer lake conditions. The Nature Conservancy document "[Climate Change in the Champlain Basin: What Natural Resource Managers Can Expect and Do](#)" discusses physical changes in the Champlain Basin including ice out and ice cover as well as water temperatures, stratification and mixing. It is important to understand how these same physical factors may change in New Hampshire's lakes.

VLAP began asking volunteers and lake associations for historical ice out records in 2011 after realizing there was not a central repository for this information. We currently have records for approximately 50 New Hampshire lakes and hope to collect information for additional lakes. To do so, VLAP has created an easy to use [on-line form](#) to enter ice out data. Once the data have been entered, historical records for your lake are stored electronically and available upon request for use in lake association publications, scientific research and articles. Below is an example from Stinson Lake in Rumney, NH, which has records data back to 1937! Many lake associations hold annual [ice out contests](#) to guess the date and time of ice out, and many also serve as fundraisers.

Limno Lingo

Non-Point Source Pollution:

Pollution originating from many different sources or areas, not from one specific location or "point source" such as a discharge pipe. Non-point source pollution occurs when rainwater, snowmelt, or irrigation washes off plowed fields, city streets, or suburban backyards. As the runoff moves across land surface it picks up soil particles and pollutants, such as nutrients and pesticides and carries them into a water body.



So what are you waiting for? Ask the record keeper at your lake to [enter the data](#), or if you don't have data, start collecting it!

Chloride Found at Levels that Can Harm Aquatic Life in Urban Streams of the Northern U.S. -- Winter Deicing a Major Source

Levels of chloride, a component of salt, are elevated in many urban streams and groundwater across the northern U.S., according to a new government study. Chloride levels above the recommended federal criteria set to protect aquatic life were found in more than 40 percent of urban streams tested. The study was released by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Elevated chloride can inhibit plant growth, impair reproduction, and reduce the diversity of organisms in streams.

The effect of chloride on drinking-water wells was lower. Scientists found chloride levels greater than federal standards set for human consumption in fewer than 2 percent of drinking-water wells sampled in the USGS study. Use of salt for deicing roads and parking lots in the winter is a major source of chloride. Other sources include wastewater treatment, septic systems, and farming operations. "Safe transportation is a top priority of state and local officials when they use road salt. And clearly salt is an effective deicer that prevents accidents, saves lives, and reduces property losses," said Matthew C. Larsen, USGS Associate Director for Water. "These findings are not surprising, but rather remind us of the unintended consequences that salt use for deicing may have on our waters. Transportation officials continue to implement innovative alternatives that reduce salt use without compromising safety."

This [comprehensive study](#) examines chloride concentrations in the northern U.S. covering parts of [19 States](#), including 1,329 wells and 100 streams.

The Twelve Days of Christmas, Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Style

The [Michigan State University Sea Grant Extension](#) has a holiday message regarding aquatic invasive species. What a fun awareness message, and pay special attention to the third day of Christmas! Happy Holidays!

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