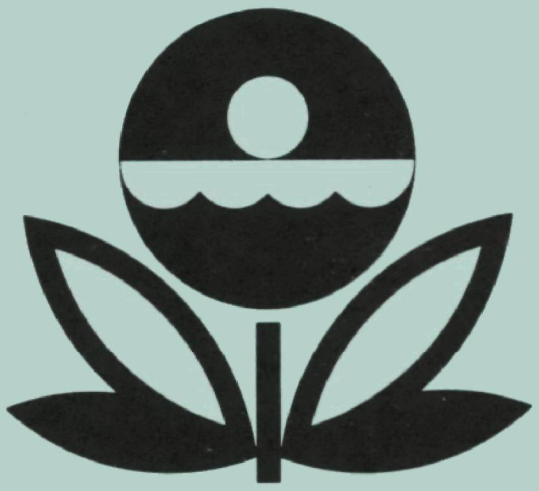
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL EUTROPHICATION SURVEY

WORKING PAPER SERIES



REPORT

ON

LITTLE LAKE

GRANT COUNTY

MINNESOTA

EPA REGION V

WORKING PAPER No. 120

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

An Associate Laboratory of the

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER - CORVALLIS, OREGON

and

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

☆ GPO—697-032

REPORT
ON
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WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

AND THE

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

JULY, 1975

CONTENTS

F O R E W O R D

The National Eutrophication Survey was initiated in 1972 in response to an Administration commitment to investigate the nationwide threat of accelerated eutrophication to fresh water lakes and reservoirs.

OBJECTIVES

The Survey was designed to develop, in conjunction with state environmental agencies, information on nutrient sources, concentrations, and impact on selected freshwater lakes as a basis for formulating comprehensive and coordinated national, regional, and state management practices relating to point-source discharge reduction and non-point source pollution abatement in lake watersheds.

ANALYTIC APPROACH

The mathematical and statistical procedures selected for the Survey's eutrophication analysis are based on related concepts that:

a. A generalized representation or model relating sources, concentrations, and impacts can be constructed.

b. By applying measurements of relevant parameters associated with lake degradation, the generalized model can be transformed into an operational representation of a lake, its drainage basin, and related nutrients.

c. With such a transformation, an assessment of the potential for eutrophication control can be made.

LAKE ANALYSIS

In this report, the first stage of evaluation of lake and watershed data collected from the study lake and its drainage basin is documented. The report is formatted to provide state environmental agencies with specific information for basin planning [§303(e)], water quality criteria/standards review [§303(c)], clean lakes [§314(a,b)], and water quality monitoring [§106 and §305(b)] activities mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

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* The lake discussed in this report was included in the National Eutrophication Survey as a water body of interest to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Tributaries were not sampled, and this report relates only to the data obtained from lake sampling.

Beyond the single lake analysis, broader based correlations between nutrient concentrations (and loading) and trophic condition are being made to advance the rationale and data base for refinement of nutrient water quality criteria for the Nation's fresh water lakes. Likewise, multivariate evaluations for the relationships between land use, nutrient export, and trophic condition, by lake class or use, are being developed to assist in the formulation of planning guidelines and policies by EPA and to augment plans implementation by the states.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The staff of the National Eutrophication Survey (Office of Research & Development, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency) expresses sincere appreciation to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for professional involvement and to the Minnesota National Guard for conducting the tributary sampling phase of the Survey.

Grant J. Merritt, Director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, John F. McGuire, Chief, and Joel G. Schilling, Biologist, of the Section of Surface and Groundwater, Division of Water Quality, provided invaluable lake documentation and counsel during the course of the Survey; and the staff of the Section of Municipal Works, Division of Water Quality, were most helpful in identifying point sources and soliciting municipal participation in the Survey.

Major General Chester J. Moeglein, the Adjutant General of Minnesota, and Project Officer Major Adrian Beltrand, who directed the volunteer efforts of the Minnesota National Guardsmen, are also gratefully acknowledged for their assistance to the Survey.

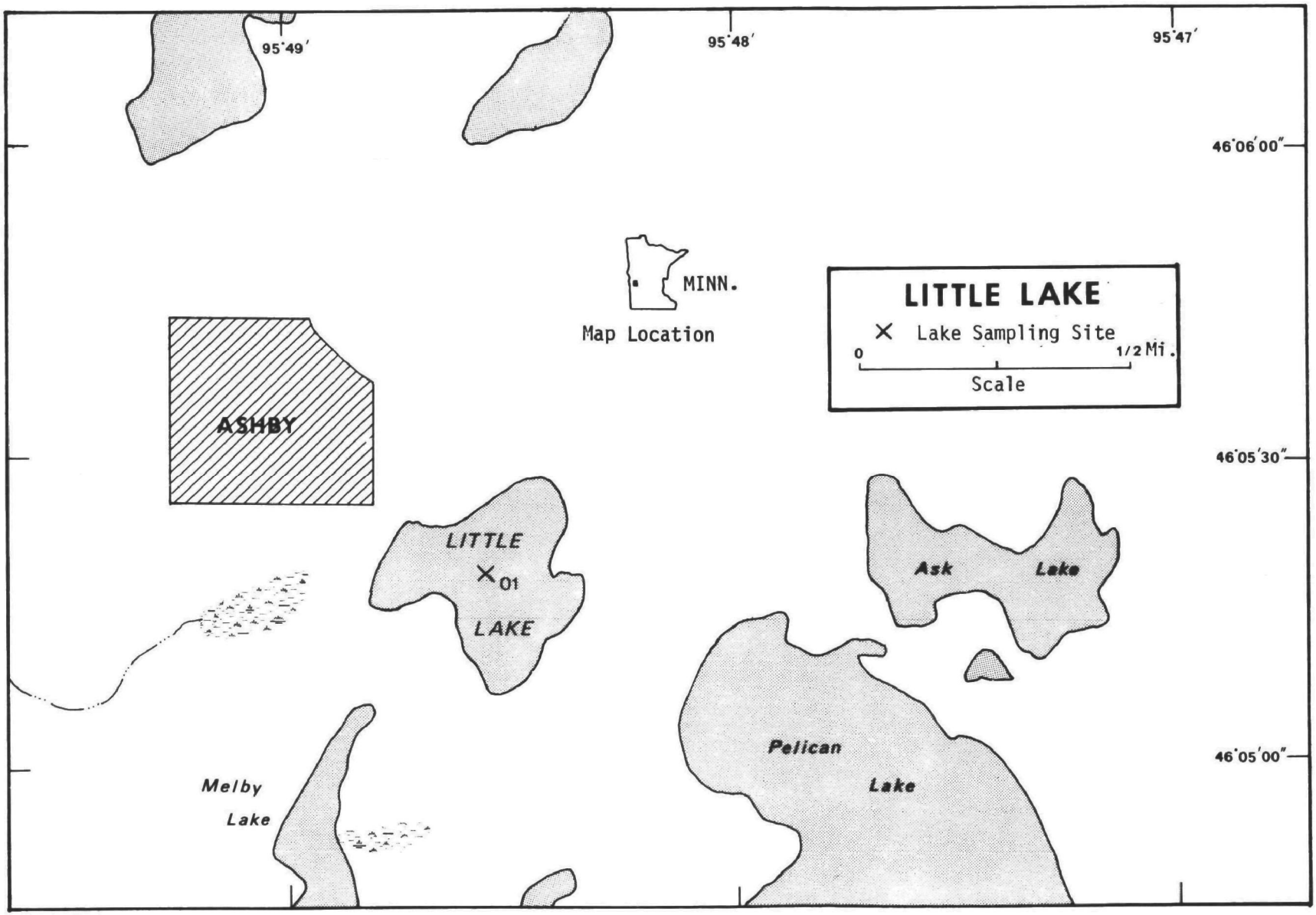
NATIONAL EUTROPHICATION SURVEY

STUDY LAKES

STATE OF MINNESOTA

LAKE NAME	COUNTY
Albert Lea	Freeborn
Andrusia	Beltrami
Badger	Polk
Bartlett	Koochiching
Bear	Freeborn
Bemidji	Beltrami
Big	Stearns
Big Stone	Big Stone, MN; Roberts, Grant, SD
Birch	Cass
Blackduck	Beltrami
Blackhoof	Crow Wing
Budd	Martin
Buffalo	Wright
Calhoun	Hennepin
Carlos	Douglas
Carrigan	Wright
Cass	Beltrami, Cass
Clearwater	Wright, Stearns
Cokato	Wright
Cranberry	Crow Wing
Darling	Douglas
Elbow	St. Louis
Embarass	St. Louis
Fall	Lake
Forest	Washington
Green	Kandiyohi
Gull	Cass
Heron	Jackson
Leech	Cass
Le Homme Dieu	Douglas
Lily	Blue Earth
Little	Grant
Lost	St. Louis

LAKE NAME	COUNTY
Madison	Blue Earth
Malmedal	Pope
Mashkenode	St. Louis
McQuade	St. Louis
Minnetonka	Hennepin
Minnewaska	Pope
Mud	Itasca
Nest	Kandiyohi
Pelican	St. Louis
Pepin	Goodhue, Wabasha, MN; Pierce, Pepin, WI
Rabbit	Crow Wing
Sakatah	Le Sueur
Shagawa	St. Louis
Silver	McLeod
Six Mile	St. Louis
Spring	Washington, Dakota
St. Croix	Washington, MN; St. Croix, Pierce, WI
St. Louis Bay	St. Louis, MN; Douglas, WI
Superior Bay	St. Louis, MN; Douglas, WI
Swan	Itasca
Trace	Todd
Trout	Itasca
Wagonga	Kandiyohi
Wallmark	Chisago
White Bear	Washington
Winona	Douglas
Wolf	Beltrami, Hubbard
Woodcock	Kandiyohi
Zumbro	Olmstead, Wabasha


95°49′
95°48′
95°47′
46°06′00″
46°05′30″
46°05′00″
MINN.
Map Location
LITTLE LAKE
Lake Sampling Site
0
1/2 Mi.
Scale
ASHBY
LITTLE
01
LAKE
Ask
Lake
Pelican
Lake
Melby
Lake

LITTLE LAKE

STORET NO. 2748

I. INTRODUCTION

Little Lake was included in the National Eutrophication Survey as a water body of interest to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Tributaries were not sampled, and nutrient sources were not evaluated. Therefore, this report relates only to lake sampling data.

II. CONCLUSIONS

A. Trophic Condition:

Survey data show that Little Lake is hypereutrophic. Of the 60 Minnesota lakes sampled in the fall when essentially all were well-mixed, 58 had less and one the same mean total phosphorus, 56 had less mean dissolved phosphorus, and 27 had less mean inorganic nitrogen. Of the 80 Minnesota lakes sampled, 61 had less mean chlorophyll a, and 42 had greater mean Secchi disc transparency.

Survey limnologists noted that this shallow lake was heavily overgrown with rooted aquatic plants and observed algal blooms in progress in September and October, 1972.

B. Rate-Limiting Nutrient:

The results of the algal assay show that Little Lake was nitrogen limited at the time the sample was taken (10/25/72). The lake data indicate nitrogen limitation at the other sampling times as well.

III. LAKE CHARACTERISTICS

A. Morphometry:

1. Surface area: 69 acres*.
2. Mean depth: unknown.
3. Maximum depth: >4 feet (based on Survey sampling).
4. Volume: unknown.

B. Precipitation**:

1. Year of sampling: 22.9 inches.
2. Mean annual: 22.6 inches.

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* Anonymous, 1968.
** See Working Paper No. 1, "Survey Methods, 1972".

IV. LAKE WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

Little Lake was sampled three times during the open-water season of 1972 by means of a pontoon-equipped Huey helicopter. Each time, samples for physical and chemical parameters were collected from one or more depths at a single station on the lake (see map, page vi). During each visit, a single depth-integrated (near bottom to surface) sample was collected for phytoplankton identification and enumeration, and a similar sample was collected for chlorophyll a analysis. During the last visit, a single five-gallon depth-integrated sample was taken for algal assays. The maximum depth sampled was 4 feet.

The results obtained are presented in full in Appendix A, and the data for the fall sampling period, when the lake essentially was well-mixed, are summarized in the following table. Note, however, the Secchi disc summary is based on all values.

For differences in the various parameters at the other sampling times, refer to Appendix A.

A. Physical and chemical characteristics:

Parameter	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum
		FALL VALUES (10/25/72)		
Temperature (Cent.)	4.2	(only one value)		
Dissolved oxygen (mg/l)	14.4	(only one value)		
Conductivity (μmhos)	825	825	825	825
pH (units)	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Alkalinity (mg/l)	190	195	195	200
Total P (mg/l)	1.480	1.480	1.480	1.480
Dissolved P (mg/l)	1.240	1.250	1.250	1.260
NO_2 + NO_3 (mg/l)	0.090	0.095	0.095	0.100
Ammonia (mg/l)	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100
		ALL VALUES		
Secchi disc (inches)	16	42	30	80

B. Biological characteristics:

1. Phytoplankton -

Sampling Date	Dominant Genera	Number per ml
07/06/72	1. Merismopedia	2,750
	2. Microcystis	1,621
	3. Fragilaria	796
	4. Flagellates	449
	5. Chroococcus	232
	Other genera	737
	Total	6,585
09/02/72	1. Dictyosphaerium	9,474
	2. Merismopedia	6,466
	3. Aphanocapsa	4,436
	4. Microcystis	3,083
	5. Flagellates	2,632
	Other genera	5,864
	Total	31,955
10/25/72	1. Cyclotella	10,152
	2. Flagellates	6,364
	3. Microcystis	4,242
	4. Fragilaria	2,273
	5. Chroococcus	1,970
	Other genera	6,060
	Total	31,061

2. Chlorophyll a -
(Because of instrumentation problems during the 1972 sampling, the following values may be in error by plus or minus 20 percent.)

Sampling Date	Station Number	Chlorophyll a (µg/l)
07/06/72	01	5.8
09/02/72	01	40.9
10/25/72	01	129.6

C. Limiting Nutrient Study:

1. Autoclaved, filtered, and nutrient spiked -

Spike (mg/l)	Ortho P Conc. (mg/l)	Inorganic N Conc. (mg/l)	Maximum yield (mg/l-dry wt.)
Control	1.050	0.183	15.8
0.005 P	1.055	0.183	15.3
0.010 P	1.060	0.183	14.8
0.020 P	1.070	0.183	15.7
0.050 P	1.100	0.183	15.0
0.050 P + 10.0 N	1.100	10.183	108.4
10.0 N	1.050	10.183	80.8

2. Discussion -

The control yield of the assay alga, Selenastrum capricornutum, indicates that the potential primary productivity of Little Lake was high at the time the sample was collected (10/25/72). Also, the results show that the lake was nitrogen limited at that time. Algal growth was not stimulated beyond the control yield with orthophosphorus spikes. The addition of nitrogen alone caused a significant growth response in comparison to the control yield. However, the maximum yield was achieved with a combined spike of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The lake data indicate nitrogen limitation at the other sampling times as well; i.e., N/P ratios were 8/1 in June and less than 1/1 in September, and nitrogen limitation would be expected.

V. LITERATURE REVIEWED

Anonymous, 1968. An inventory of Minnesota lakes. MN Dept. Cons., St. Paul.

VI. APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

PHYSICAL and CHEMICAL DATA

STORET RETRIEVAL DATE 74/10/30

274801
46 05 18.0 095 48 33.0
LITTLE LAKE
27 MINNESOTA

11EPALFS 2111202
3 0000 FEET DEPTH

DATE FROM TO	TIME OF DAY	DEPTH FEET	00010 WATER TEMP CENT	00300 DO MG/L	00077 TRANSP SECCHI INCHES	00094 CNDUCTVY FIELD MICROMHO	00400 PH SU	00410 T ALK CACO3 MG/L	00630 NO2&NO3 N-TOTAL MG/L	00610 NH3-N TOTAL MG/L	00665 PHOS-TOT MG/L P	00666 PHOS-DIS MG/L P
72/07/06	16 00	0000	20.6	9.8	80	325	9.00	98	0.060	0.040	0.020	0.012
72/09/02	14 45	0000			30	785	9.35	96	0.170	0.180	0.930	0.745
	14 45	0004	19.J	7.1		790	9.30	92	0.120	0.130	0.910	0.765
72/10/25	15 20	0000			16	825	9.40	90	0.090	0.100	1.480	1.240
	15 20	0004	4.6	14.4		825	9.40	200	0.100	0.100	1.480	1.260

DATE FROM TO	TIME OF DAY	DEPTH FEET	32217 CHLRPHYL A UG/L
72/07/06	16 00	0000	5.8J
72/09/02	14 45	0000	40.9J
72/10/25	15 20	0000	129.6J

J VALUE KNOWN TO BE IN ERROR