

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

CSLAP Lakes - New York State

General Description

The dataset represents the lakes participating in the Citizen Statewide Lake Monitoring Assessment Program (CSLAP). CSLAP is a volunteer lake monitoring and education program that is managed by DEC and New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). The data collected through the program is used to identify water quality issues, detect seasonal and long term patterns, and inform volunteers and lake residents about water quality conditions in their lake. The program has delivered high quality data to many DEC programs for over 25 years.

Samples and field information are collected by lay volunteers trained by DEC and NYSFOLA, using equipment provided by DEC and a state certified laboratory (Upstate Freshwater Institute). All sampling volunteers are members of NYSFOLA lake associations. Sampling is conducted every other week over a 15 week period between mid May and mid October for a variety of water quality indicators and measures of lake uses. Sampling volunteers are responsible for conducting water sampling and processing and shipping water samples collected from the mid point of program lakes, as well as documenting field conditions. Samplers also collect shoreline algae bloom samples analyzed for blue green algae abundance and algal toxins through SUNY ESF.

Program logistics are managed through a contract between DEC and NYSFOLA, and DEC is responsible for analyzing program data and writing annual reports for each program lake. The program is mandated through the state Environmental Conservation Law (17-0305), and program funding is provided through a mix of federal funding and lake association participation fees.

The dataset catalogs CSLAP lake information; including: lake name, lake depth, public accessibility, trophic status, watershed area, elevation, lake area, water quality classification, county, town, CSLAP status, years sampled, and last year sampled.

Purpose

The dataset is a summary of the lake data and information collected through CSLAP.

Limitations of Data Use

Any documentation provided is an integral part of the data set. Failure to use the documentation in conjunction with the digital data could lead to errors in analysis. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, errors may be reflected in the data supplied. The user must be aware of data conditions and bear responsibility for the appropriate use of the information with respect to possible errors, original map scale, collection methodology, currency of data, and other conditions.

Supplemental information

See the Statewide Lake Monitoring Programs web page at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/31411.html> for more information.

Note the attribute table contains records of features for which no coordinate information is available.