

BCLSS

June 2025 Newsletter



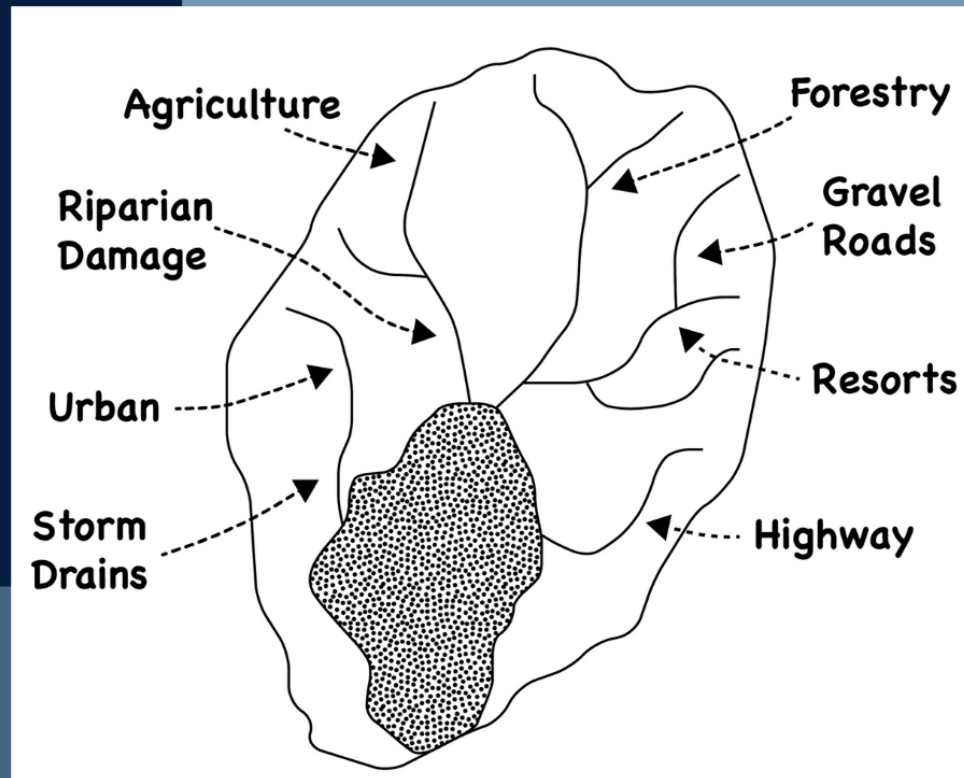
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New Addition to LakeKeepers Training - Watershed Monitoring and Assessment



Non-Point Source Pollution



- Runoff from diffuse sources – no single point of impact
- Sources can add up to result in a cumulative impact to the lake downstream

BCLSS is pleased to announce a great addition to the training courses we offer. We have developed a module to supplement our training courses that covers the basics of initiating a watershed monitoring program, with the additional goal of conducting a watershed assessment. The course content is particularly applicable to understanding the effects of nonpoint (diffuse) sources of pollution on water quality. This information is essential for the development of a watershed management plan.

This training is a one half day complement to the LakeKeepers training intended to provide participants with guidance for watershed monitoring and assessment. However, it can serve as a compliment to any of the training BCLSS offers – see <https://www.bclss.org/programs#lakekeepers> for more information on BCLSS training. It also has sufficient scope to be presented as a stand alone 1 day course for those wanting more in depth training in this aspect of environmental assessment.

If your group or organization is interested in receiving this training, please contact the BCLSS office at info@bclss.org.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the federal Canada Water Agency.



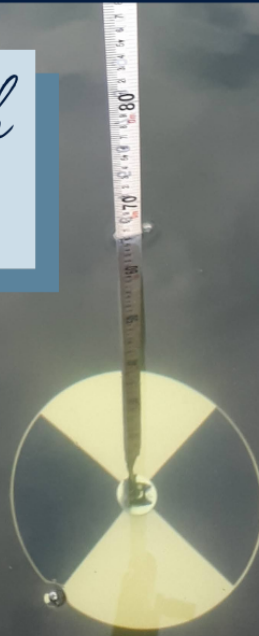
Canada
Water Agency

Agence de l'eau
du Canada

The Annual Secchi Dip-In!

Lakes Appreciation Month
July 1st to 31st, 2025

Learn more at:
www.bclss.org



Lakes Appreciation Month is just around the corner! It's time to dig out your Secchi disks in preparation for the Annual Secchi Dip-In running from July 1 to 31, 2025. The 2025 Secchi Dip-In information can be found [here](#) and forms can be downloaded through the links below.

Can't decide which lake to "dip"? No problem, we will accept dips from as many lakes as you would like to sample! Also, feel free to take multiple dips on the same lake within Lakes Appreciation Month.

Please submit your Secchi Dip-In data to BCLSS promptly to ensure that it is included in our final results. You can submit your completed Secchi Dip-In forms on our website or send them by email to info@bclss.org

Note: If you are already monitoring your lake at a level 1, 2, or 3, you may use one or more of your regular Secchi readings (providing that the data falls between July 1 and July 31) for the Annual Secchi Dip-In; however, **we ask that you please complete a separate Secchi Dip-In form aside from your regular level 1, 2, or 3 data sheet.**

We appreciate receiving your Secchi dips and hope you can participate this year! Please share with anyone that may be interested.

Happy dipping!

[Form for New Dippers](#)

[Form for Returning Dippers](#)

[Read the 2024 Secchi Dip-In Report Here!](#)

New Lake Report: Rainbow Lake 2020-2023

New Lake Report! Volunteers on Rainbow Lake recently completed a Level 1 BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program. Click the button below to read the full report or find the summary below.

Summary: A great dataset of Secchi depth and surface temperature has been established by volunteers from 2020-2023. Secchi data in Rainbow Lake from 2020-2023 indicates the lake is likely mesotrophic. There is little limnological data available for Rainbow Lake, and without results for chlorophyll-a or phosphorus levels in the lake, a firm conclusion on trophic status should not be drawn as Secchi

readings can be impacted by other factors.



Rainbow Lake 2020-2023
BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program
Summary Report



The BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) partner with local volunteers and stewardship groups to characterize lake water quality through the *BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program* (BCLSMMP). The BCLSMMP's focus is on understanding water clarity, temperature, oxygen, and nutrients because these factors contribute to the basic understanding of lake processes which influence biological productivity. Concerns about productivity are common, specifically because high productivity can negatively impact recreation, drinking water and aquatic health due to harmful algal blooms. For more information about the BCLSMMP please visit www.gov.bc.ca/fish/stewardship/monitoring



Photo 1. Photo of Rainbow Lake - Photo by Marge Sidney

Background

Rainbow Lake is located in the North Cariboo region of British Columbia, beside the town of Nazko, BC. The Nazko Band members have historically used the lake for fishing and the surrounding area for hunting and berry picking (Sidney, 2024). With little residential development around the lake (5 homes total) and no public access sites, the lake is quiet the majority of the time and there is very little motor use on the lake (Helfrich, 2024). All 5 residences use water from the lake (Sidney, 2024).

Rainbow Lake appears to exhibit a pattern of lower Secchi readings in the spring and fall, which may be related to lake overturn spurring algae growth. However, more data such as dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles as well as chlorophyll-a data is needed to determine if this hypothesis if correct.

The maximum surface water temperatures recorded in Rainbow Lake from 2020-2023 are warm and above the preferred temperature range for salmonid species. Many fish species, especially salmonids, show signs of stress at temperatures greater than 18°C (Truelson,1997). With a maximum depth of around 17 meters, most of the water column likely remains within the preferred temperature range for salmonid species. However, this warrants further investigation so collecting dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles is recommended.

Rainbow Lake Report

Shuswap & Mara Lakes Decibel Coalition - Are You Disrupted By Excessively Noisy Boats on Mara Lake?

Message from BCLSS Member Alan Drinkwater of the SMLDC:

During the past 4 years, the Shuswap & Mara Lakes Decibel Coalition (SMLDC) has worked in partnership with Canada’s national Decibel Coalition to enhance

existing legislation governing boat motor noise emissions. SMLDC is pleased to report that Transport Canada is currently drafting decibel limit-based regulations that will apply to owner/operators, boat importers and boat manufacturers.

In the lead-up to these enhanced regulations coming into effect, SMLDC will be gathering information on the number and frequency of excessively noisy pleasure craft that disrupt Mara & Shuswap Lakes during the current boating season. This information will help the RCMP to target their on-the-water enforcement activities when the regulations come into effect.



SMLDC seeks Mara Lake-based volunteers who would be willing to collect data on noisy boat events during the 2025 boating season. If you would like to volunteer, please contact fellow BCLSS member Alan Drinkwater: M. 604 360-7405, alanrdrinkwater50@gmail.com



Not a member of the BCLSS yet?

Please consider joining our network of lake stewards! For more information on the benefits of membership, [visit our website](#).

Were you forwarded this newsletter? [Subscribe today](#) to get monthly updates on stewardship activities, lake science, and much more delivered to your inbox!

The BCLSS acknowledges that the lake stewardship activities of our staff, directors, and volunteers take place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of First Nations Peoples throughout British Columbia. We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these lands and waters for generations and we are grateful to the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and youth that implement their knowledge and traditional laws to preserve water and life for the benefit of all.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Parks.



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