

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

Pocasset Lake, Wayne

MIDAS: 3824, Sample Station # 1

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME-DEP) and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) have collaborated in the collection of lake data to evaluate water quality, track algal blooms, and determine water quality trends. This dataset does not include bacteria, mercury, or nutrients other than phosphorus.

Water quality monitoring datasets for Pocasset Lake have been collected since 1976. During this period, 11 years of basic chemical information was collected in addition to Secchi Disk Transparencies (SDT). In summary, the water quality of Pocasset Lake is considered slightly better than average based on measures of SDT, total phosphorus (TP), and Chlorophyll-a (Chla). The potential for nuisance algal blooms on Pocasset Lake is low.

Water Quality Measures: Pocasset Lake is a non-colored lake (average color 17 SPU) with an average SDT of 5.7 m (18.7 ft). Since the Secchi disk often reaches to the bottom of this lake before going out of sight, the actual clarity is probably underestimated. The range of water column TP for Pocasset Lake is 6 - 12 parts per billion (ppb) with an average of 9 ppb. Chla ranges from 1.5 - 12.8 ppb with an average of 3.4 ppb. Recent dissolved oxygen (DO) profiles show almost no DO depletion in deeper areas of the lake because it is relatively shallow (20 ft). The potential for phosphorus to leave the bottom sediments and become available to algae in the water column (internal loading) is low.

See the Maine DEP *Explanation of Lake Water Quality Monitoring Report* for measured variable explanations. Additional lake information can be obtained by contacting Maine DEP at 207-287-3901 or VLMP at 207-783-7733, and at these Websites:

<http://www.lakesofmaine.org> and <http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/lakes/index.html> and <http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org>.

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