

Indian River Lakes Milfoil Weevil Rearing

Presentation by: Sarah Trick
Watershed Coordinator at the IRLC
Strick@indianriverlakes.org



Indian River Lakes

CONSERVANCY

Protect • Learn • Enjoy • Forever

Watermilfoil

Three Types:

- Eurasian
- Northern
- Hybrid

Eurasian Watermilfoil



Northern Watermilfoil




Management Techniques

- Chemical Controls
- Mechanical Harvester
- Benthic Mats
- Hand Pulling
- Biological Control



Pictured Above:
Mechanical Harvester on
Mud Lake



Historical Management in the Indian River Lakes

Millsite Lake:

- Over-run with milfoil in the late 80's
- Tried benthic mats and weed cutter
- Started herbicide application in 90s - switched to every other year starting 2018 (because milfoil wasn't creating mats at the surface)
- Plan on reevaluating strategy in 2022

Mudd Lake

- Worked with Goose Bay and the town of Alexandria to receive a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
 - Received federal funding in 2016
- Equipped the town with the knowledge and tools to address EWM at a municipal level.
 - Included funds for two years of herbicide application **and** the purchase of a mechanical harvester



Kawartha Lake Stewards Association



Jenny Jelen, Sudbury News



Benefits of Weevils

- Prefer Eurasian Milfoil over native
- Inexpensive
- Natural Control Method
- Once established, limited need for continued treatment

Drawbacks

- **Finding Them**
- Overwintering
- Awareness
- **Control**. Not Eradication.

How it works

- Trough or floating set-up
- Find weevils - spring/early summer
- Collect and bundle milfoil
- Monitor water temperature
- Suggested release: after fresh stems begin to be rapidly eaten
 - If tanks were originally stocked with 70 weevils each (suggested) this should take between 44-54 days



Set-up suggestions taken from: The Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council





Mathematical Modeling: Predictors of Success

- Latitude
- **Maximum Depth**
- Lake Depth
- **Shoreline Buffer Zones** (at least 10ft)
- Secchi Depth
- Phosphorus Levels
- **Weevil Treatment Frequency**
- Number of Weevils Added

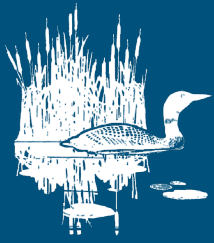
Model is in preliminary stages but has been found to be **75% accurate**

The number of panfish (such as sunfish and bluegill) has been cited as an important factor in other studies, but isn't considered in the current model



Clarkson

Researcher: Diana White



Indian River Lakes CONSERVANCY

Protect • Learn • Enjoy • Forever

Strick@indianriverlakes.org

