White Pond Water Quality Monitoring Update, May 16, 2022

A-Pod HAB Trap being installed this week

Visitors and residents may observe lots of activity at White Pond this coming week. The primary A-Pod HAB trap will be installed at White Pond in the Thoreau Cove area below Seymour St, which is shown in solid yellow in the figure below. The A-Pod Trap area will be located near the shore between existing docks. The A-Pod will contain two, 200-foot long collection members which float in the water column. The primary A-Pod is situated to maximize recovery of the deeper and larger cyanobacteria biomass source but it will also remove shallow scums.

Secondary A-Pods may also be installed in the areas shown in dashed yellow lines in the Thoreau cove area and near the town's White Pond Beach and state boat ramp. These smaller and shallower versions will be used primarily to catch and remove scums and near surface cyanobacteria accumulations. Each will contain 100 to 200 foot collection member and a small A-Pod trap. These A-Pods are temporary and will be installed and moved as needed as the season progresses.

A hydrologic drogue will also be deployed this week, shown in the picture below. The drogue will float around the pond with GPS for tracking of currents, with a suspension sea-anchor to catch currents at desired depths. The drogue will help characterize water currents and areas where cyanobacteria are likely to accumulate. The drogue will have visible A-Pod labels on both sides and a QR code for the White Pond Watershed website.

Visitors and residents are asked to not disturb these materials if you observe them.

Water sampling for cyanobacteria

The first water sampling for cyanobacteria and zooplankton was conducted on May 4. Cyanobacteria numbers are very low, as expected this early in the season. Zooplankton biomass was also low which is typical for oligotrophic lake systems so early in the season, but the sample showed a diverse number of zooplankton species which is an indication of good water quality.

The next sampling event will be held May 17. Sampling will continue biweekly until cyanobacterial populations increase significantly at which time weekly sampling will start.

Beach water monitoring for coliform bacteria will begin the week before Memorial Day.