

Sea Lion Lake Eurasian Water-Milfoil Hybrid Report, 2013

Florence County Conservation Department

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Background:

Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was discovered in Sea Lion Lake in 2012. Manual removal was used as the population was fairly small. Annual water monitoring in 2013 allowed for a survey of the lake, with priority focused on Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM).

Methods:

The boat landing and surrounding shoreline was surveyed with extreme prejudice by snorkeling and scuba diving. EWM were removed from the lake by hand if discovered.

Results:

EWM was discovered at area surrounding the boat landing (Maps 1. and 2.), but estimated to be fewer than fifteen individuals.



Eurasian Water-Milfoil,
Sea Lion Lake
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Discussion:

The location of the EWM at the boat landing is a strong indication that EWM was introduced by boat. The observed EWM population was very small, but now has a residence time of two years. Although EWM were pulled, hybridization must be considered as a future issue and continued monitoring will be necessary. The situation highlights the importance of boat inspections.

Conclusion:

Eurasian water-milfoil is present at Sea Lion Lake. Although the population is small, and has been hand pulled for two years, hybridization is a possibility. Continued monitoring and possible removal are necessary, during both the spring and fall seasons.



Map 1. An aerial view of present at Sea Lion Lake. The lake is shown in its entirety, and at this scale the Eurasian water-milfoil is difficult to view, but is included for reference information. To see the Eurasian water-milfoil site at a closer view reference Map 2.



Map 2. A close up aerial view of the Eurasian water-milfoil on Sea Lion Lake. The Eurasian water-milfoil was located in a very small area, in the boat landing.

Maps:

Map 1. Eurasian Water-Milfoil on Sea Lion Lake, Whole Lake View. 15 August 2013. Scale undetermined. Robert Richard; “using Google Earth”. 27 June 2010.

Map 2. Eurasian Water-Milfoil on Sea Lion Lake, Close View. 15 August 2013. Scale undetermined. Robert Richard; “using Google Earth”. 27 June 2010.