

West Bass Lake Southern Naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*) Survey, 2013

Florence County Land Conservation Department

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Background:

Southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*) was identified on West Bass Lake (WBIC 652200) in 2011. Southern naiad is found throughout the state of Wisconsin, but in northern regions it is less frequent (Borman, Korth, Temte, 2001). Local residents have reported concerns due to the thickness of the southern naiad patch, and have reported watercrafts not being able to enter the lake due to the dense vegetation. An initial survey was sought after in order to provide a basic understanding of the plant's abundance. The survey may also serve to initiate discussion of possible treatments or ways to mitigate the negative effects on recreation.

Methods:

West Bass Lake was surveyed by snorkeling and scuba diving on 20 June 2013. Approximate locations of southern naiad were mapped. Approximate acreage was calculated using Florence County's GIS interactive website.

Results:

Southern naiad was present in extremely dense patches (Map 1.). Southern naiad was found at the locations mapped between 70 and 100 percent estimated relative cover, and near 100 percent estimated relative abundance. In most cases, no other vegetation was present with southern naiad, but no actual quantitative data was collected. Total approximate acreage was 3.6 acres.



Southern Naiad at West Bass Lake

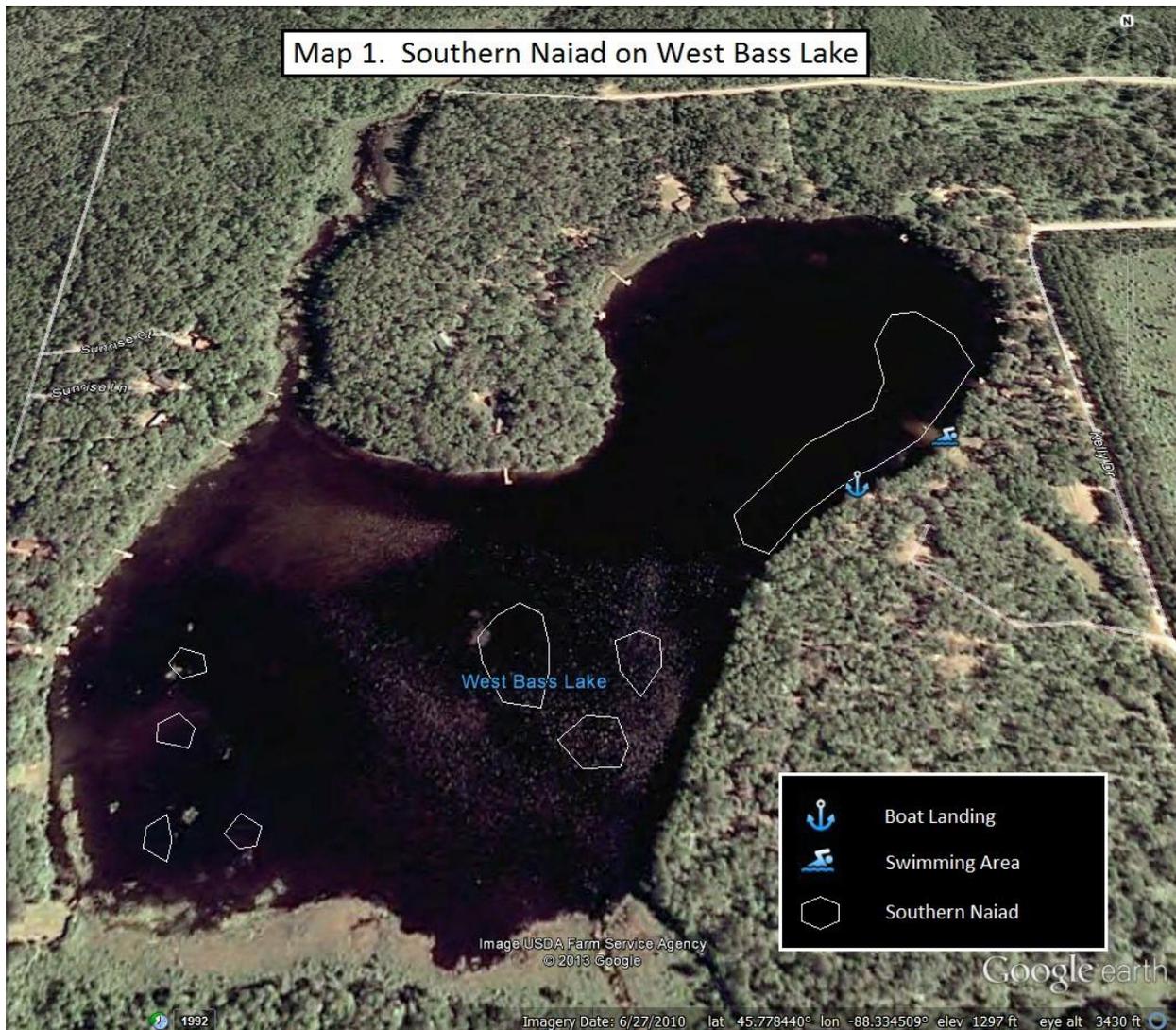
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Discussion:

Southern naiad appears to be contained within the five to ten foot depth. The largest patch is located surrounding the boat landing and swimming areas, which is likely why local residents are concerned. West Bass Lake is home to one of Florence County's campgrounds. Impaired recreation opportunities may affect a camper's willingness to return and the campground's future income.

Conclusion:

Southern naiad is relatively abundant at West Bass Lake, and is causing concern for recreational users. If the West Bass Lake District is interested in pursuing management strategies the initial step would be to request a more extensive survey from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Jim Kreitlow, the Regional Lakes Biologist, is aware of the situation.



Map 1. An aerial view of approximate Southern naiad locations. The patches of southern naiad appear to be concentrated between the five and ten foot depth of the lake.

References:

Borman, S., Korth, R., Temte, J. *Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants*.
Merril: Reindl Printing, Inc. 2001.

Maps:

Map 1. Southern Naiad on West Bass Lake. 14 August 2013. Scale undetermined. Robert
Richard; "using Google Earth". 27 June 2010.