

**PLATTE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 272**

**HONOR, MICHIGAN 49640-0272**

August 7, 2010

[www.platte-lake.org](http://www.platte-lake.org)

**THE STATE OF THE LAKE**

**LAKE WATER CLARITY:** Fair Very high secchi readings in spring and falling off as the surface water temperatures hit the highest levels recorded. Also had a large increase in lake phosphorus levels on the June 2, 2010 sampling date. See Attached Platte Lake Secchi Depths.

**CONSENT JUDGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION:** Unacceptable. Still meeting on a bi-weekly schedule with either phone conferences or face to face meetings. A significant amount of time has been devoted to getting the hatchery back “in control” after we had egregious violations of the 55 lb three month limit and a 175 lb yearly limit due to production increases. The MDNRE has been cooperating and implementing suggestions submitted by Dr. Canale and the PLIA. A very large amount of effort was expended by all parties to get to where we are. It is my opinion that we now have a “detailed understanding” of the facility and related fish rearing process and a mechanism for “control”. We have agreed on most things, but we still have a few open issues that we must resolve. An August 25, 2010 hearing date is set if we cannot work out our differences. We will discuss those issues in detail.

**HATCHERY DISCHARGE:** 2009 unacceptable. YTD 2010 is exceeding expectations at 68.64 lbs P through July 8, 2010! This was not by accident.....a lot of effort was expended on the part of all parties! See Attached Hatchery Monthly Net Load for 2009 and 2010.

**FALL SALMON RUN:** In Compliance. 14,778 adult coho were passed upstream from the lower weir. This was below the allowable 20,000. 138 Adult Chinook salmon were passed versus the 1000 allowed.

**REZONING THE BENZONIA TOWNSHIP PORTION OF PLATTE LAKE:** As stated in last years handout, the Benzie County Planning Commission voted July 1, 2009 6-0 in favor of propagating the same zoning as Lake Township adopted in 2005. Since that time, county zoning has been abolished and Benzonia Township has adopted the county zoning language which is the same as Lake Townships i.e. we have the same zoning on both sides of Platte Lake. Since then, we have had some administrative/enforcement issues and an August 13, 2010 meeting with the Lake and Benzonia Township Supervisors and their zoning administrators and Benzie County soil and Erosion Control Activity. Hopefully we will get everything working as planned.

**DEQ WATERSHED MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM:** The DEQ is working on what are known as TMDL's for individual watersheds. It is a big program that specifies how much phosphorus, etc. may be introduced to preserve water quality standards. In an effort to help them out as well as Platte Lake, we have co-authored a peer reviewed paper with Dr. Canale and Gary Whelan of the DNR that describes in detail the amount of upstream phosphorus that can be allowed from all sources and still attain the court ordered 8.0 ug/l Platte Lake phosphorus standard. We are awaiting the completion of the peer review.

**PLATTE LAKE FISH PLANTING:** The DNR did not plant any fish in 2010. A fish survey was conducted this spring. See the attached preliminary results.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR PLATTE LAKE? (other than pay your dues)**

**We must remove another 600 to 800 lbs P from the watershed to meet the 8.0 ug/l Platte Lake Phosphorus Standard!** This will require everyone to look at what they are doing and start acting in the best interest of Platte Lake. We must begin to make behavioral decisions based on all the evidence and facts to date to reduce the phosphorus load to Platte Lake. The MDNRE at this moment in time is more than meeting its obligations. Our objective with the MDNRE is to keep them in compliance with the agreement. Our new main objective is to get everyone else around Platte Lake and in the upstream watershed to become knowledgeable and help us restore Platte Lake! We need people who want to make this their No. 1 priority. It is not something only a few can do, it requires the involvement of nearly everyone.

As reprinted from previous years, there are things all of you can do now:

1. Stop lawn fertilization! If you must fertilize, **use phosphorus free lawn fertilizer**. If you have a lawn service, tell them.
2. If you mow the lawn near the lake, bag the clippings and deposit them on a back lot, etc. where they cannot decay and reenter the lake. You will be surprised how many wheel barrows you will remove over a growing season.
3. Remove all beach debris, leaves, etc. and deposit on a back lot, etc. so they cannot re-enter the lake. This is best done in the fall and again in the spring after ice off.
4. If you burn large amounts of brush near the waters edge, pick up the ashes and deposit them where they cannot re-enter the lake. If you do not, you are contributing phosphorus and other plant nutrients to the lake.
5. Have your septic tank pumped yearly if you are a full time resident.
6. **If you have an erosion problem....FIX IT!** Maintain a green belt at the waters edge in an effort to help control erosion problems. When you harvest the green belt to remove phosphorus, deposit the material on a back lot, etc. so that the decayed vegetation cannot re-enter the lake. Also, ensure that you leave the root structure when cutting so you do not kill the plants.
7. Use Lake Water to water lawns and gardens. It is high in nitrogen and it will remove phosphorus from the lake.
8. Encourage your neighbors to do all of the above.
9. Visit new neighbors and encourage them to help us by joining the PLIA. We need everyone who uses the lake involved.
10. If you are a seasonal resident, use RV antifreeze for winterizing toilets and drain traps. Do not use ethylene glycol based automotive anti-freeze. It is toxic.

Again, we all can do something to directly help restore and maintain Platte Lake.

Thank You,

Wilfred J. Swiecki  
President, PLIA