

Progress towards water quality improvement: Phytoplankton. AMP 2009 Annual Report.
(Assessment Measure)

AMENDED CONSENT JUDGMENT GOAL

Reduce the frequency, magnitude and duration of elevated chlorophyll-a concentrations in Onondaga Lake during the recreational period. Reduce the abundance of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in phytoplankton biomass

Hypotheses to be tested:	Status:
Metro improvements and watershed phosphorus load reductions result in lower biomass of phytoplankton in Onondaga Lake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since Metro improvements have reduced phosphorus loading to the lake, the biomass of phytoplankton in the lake has also declined.
Metro improvements and watershed phosphorus load reductions, reflected in a higher N:P ratio, result in reduced importance of cyanobacteria to the lake's phytoplankton biomass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since Metro improvements have reduced phosphorus loading to the lake, the proportion of cyanobacteria in the phytoplankton community has also declined.

Current Conditions with Historical Comparison

Biomass <i>(Annual average (standard deviation))</i>	1998-2004: 4.1 mg/L (1.9 mg/L) 2005-2008: 1.2 mg/L (0.56 mg/L) 2009: 1.2 mg/L								
Community Composition <i>(Jun-Sept average biomass (standard deviation))</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Cyanobacteria</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1998-2004:</td> <td>29% (10%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005-2008:</td> <td>2.1% (1.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009:</td> <td>0.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Cyanobacteria</u>	1998-2004:	29% (10%)	2005-2008:	2.1% (1.2%)	2009:	0.7%
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Factors affecting algal community	Nutrients, light, temperature, grazing pressure from <i>Daphnia</i>								

Monitoring and Assessment Program

Lake Monitoring <i>(Annual County monitoring program)</i>	<p>Biweekly sampling events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phytoplankton abundance (number per liter) Biomass (mg/l) Composition of the algal community (7 major groups) Cell size divisions (nannoplankton and netplankton) <p>Metrics to track over time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of major taxa Cyanobacteria relative importance Shifts in N:P ratio of lake water Biomass trend
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Tools for Decision Making

Model	Onondaga Lake Water Quality Model (under development by QEA,LLC)
TMDL Allocations	Phosphorus - NYSDEC Phase I TMDL 8/27/97; Phase II TMDL by January 2009