Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program

Michigan Lakes– Ours to Protect

2021 Data Report
for

AuSable Lake, Ogemaw County

Site ID: 650052

The CLMP is brought to you by:

Michigan Clean Water Corps

EGLE — MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHIGAN LAKES AND STREAMS ASSOCIATION

Huron River Watershed Council

Au Sable Lake, Ogemaw County
2021 Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch Results

Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program

The Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch was conducted on Au Sable Lake in 2021.

This survey involves sampling at multiple locations around the lake to detect new invaders, and document the extent of known invaders. While notes on other plant species may be recorded during the survey, the effort focuses on five highly invasive species: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), and Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*).

The table below summarizes the results of the 2021 Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch.

Au Sable Lake, Ogemaw County

2021 Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch Results

Survey Date(s): 6/16, 6/18, 6/20, 7/19, 7/29, 8/9, 8/15, 8/29

Species	Status	Comments
Eurasian watermilfoil	FOUND	Possibly found; hybrid milfoil reported but identification uncertain.
Starry stonewort	not found	
Curly-leaf pondweed	FOUND	
European Frogbit	not found	
Hydrilla	not found	

Visit the MiCorps Data Exchange (https://micorps.net) or contact the lead volunteer on your lake for more details on the survey, including sampling locations, maps, and abundance information, and for information on past surveys.
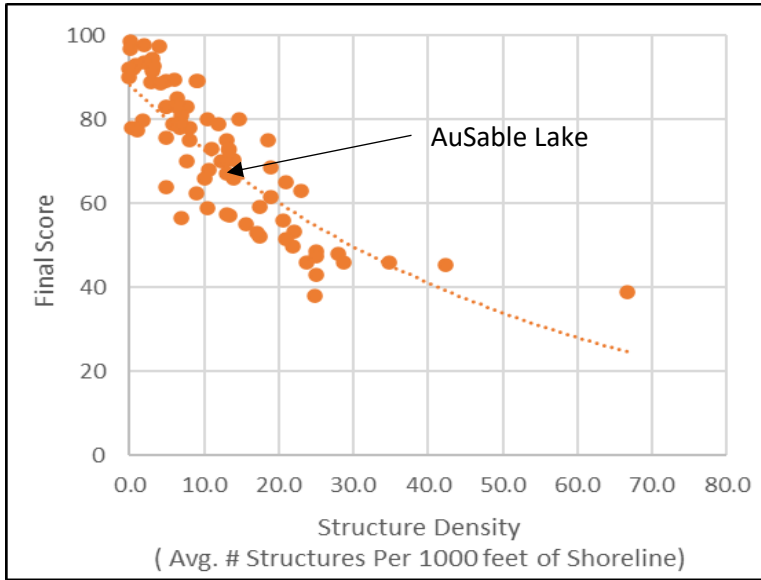
AuSable Lake, Ogemaw County
2021 Score the Shore Results

Cooperative Lakes
Monitoring Program

The Score the Shore Habitat Assessment was conducted on AuSable Lake in 2021.

This assessment involves rating 1000 foot sections of shoreline for aquatic vegetation, shoreline vegetation, erosion, and erosion control practices (like sea walls). Each shoreline section is given three scores ranging from 0-100 for the categories of Littoral, Riparian, and Erosion Management. The three scores are averaged to produce a average section score. Then a total score is given to the entire lake by averaging all of the average section scores. A score of 0 indicates a shoreline that has been extremely disturbed by human impacts and no natural shoreline remains. A score of 100 indicates a shoreline that is nearly pristine.

How does your lake compare to others in the program?

AuSable Lake

AuSable Lake	
Number of Sections:	24
Number of Structures:	335
Structure Density:	14
Final Score:	66

All 78 Participating Lakes from 2015-2021:	
Avg. Number of Sections:	16
Avg. Number of Structures:	214
Avg. Structure Density:	12.2
Avg. Final Score:	72

Note about graph to the left: The dotted line sets your average expectation of the score of your lake. If your lake is lower than the dotted line, then your shoreline health is lower than average compared to *lakes with similar amount of shoreline development*. And vice-versa in regards to a lake above the dotted line.

Analysis specific to AuSable Lake:

Overall, the lakeshore habitat of AuSable Lake is average when compared to the other lakes in the program. The breakdown of scores is interesting in AuSable Lake because about half of the sections are rated Poor and half are rated Good. (Poor:10, Fair: 1, Good: 11).

Looking at the Poor rated sections only, we see that the average scores for the three shoreline categories are Littoral Zone: 49, Riparian Zone: 21, Erosion Control: 54. Therefore it is the poor habitat of the Riparian zone that is most contributing to pulling down the habitat of AuSable Lake and reducing the overall score.

Reduce the amount of mowed grass and increase the amount of unmowed native vegetation along the lakeshore to boost the Riparian Scores. You can get plenty of ideas for improving shoreline health from the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (https://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/).