



# Spanaway Lake Operations, 2025

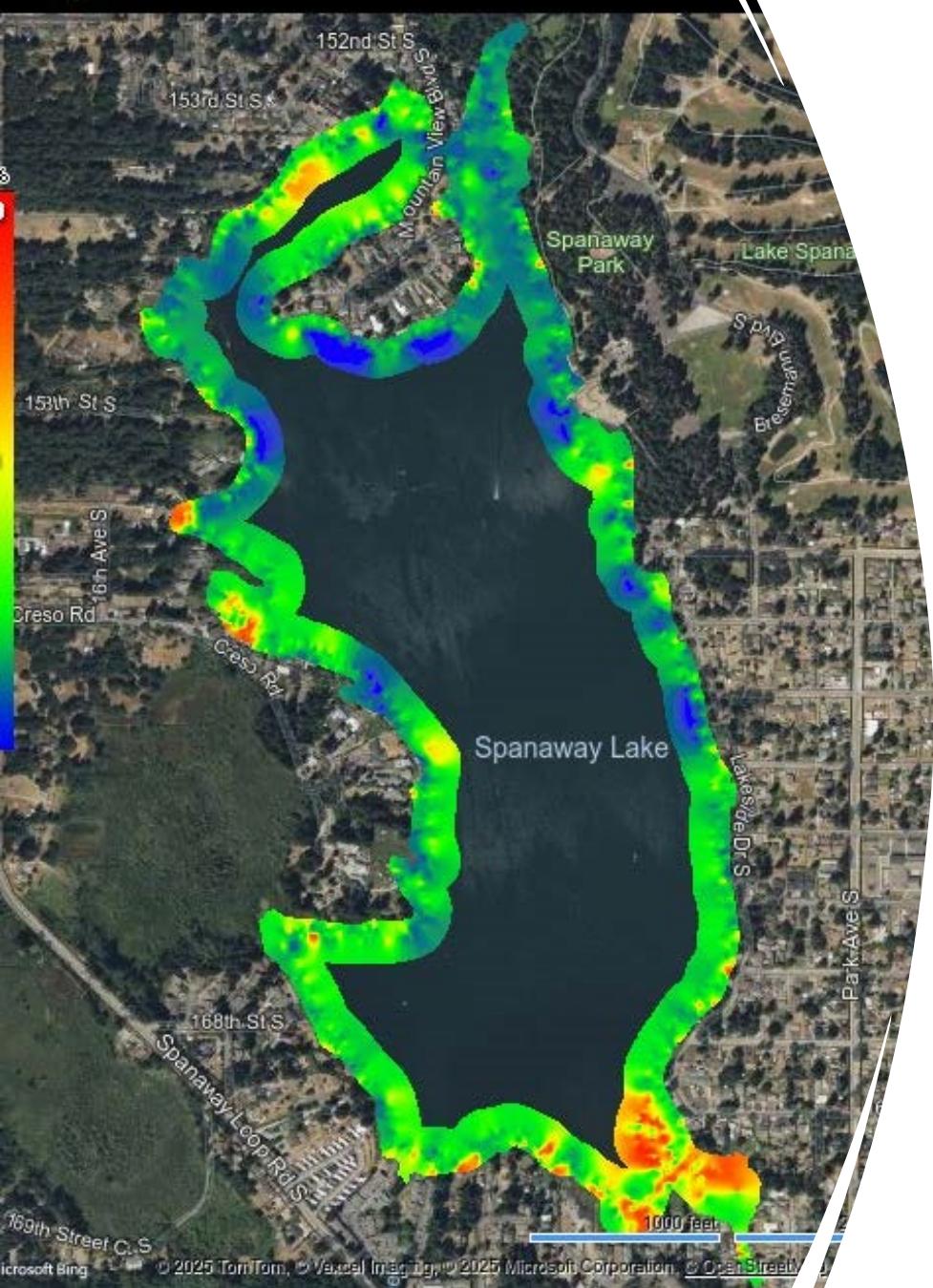
Terry McNabb, CLM  
Aquatechnex, LLC

# Scope of Work

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- Pre treatment aquatic plant survey
- Aquatic Vegetation Control
- Pre treatment algae assessment
- Phosphorus inactivation
- Post treatment aquatic weed survey and reporting.



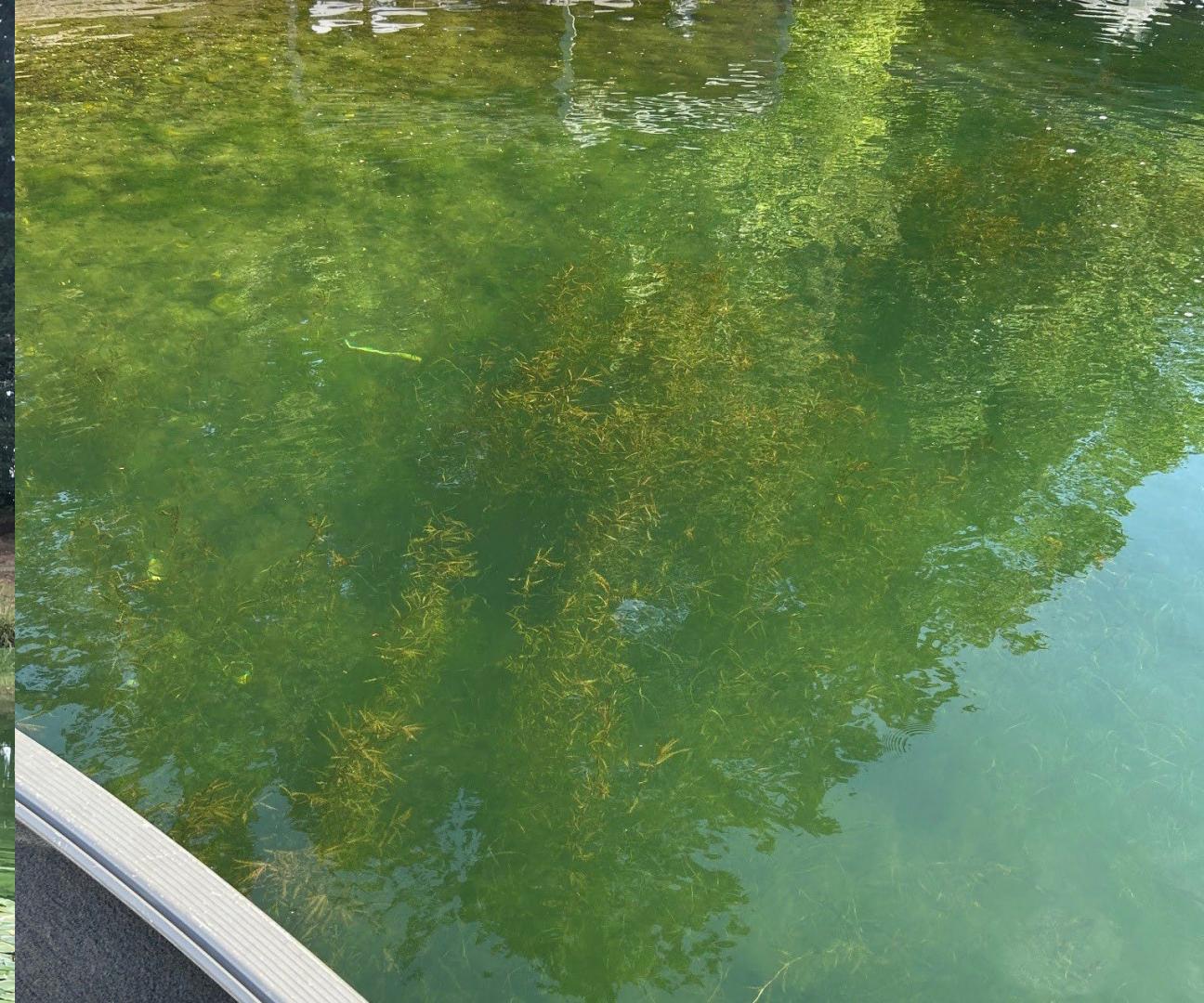


# Pre treatment survey

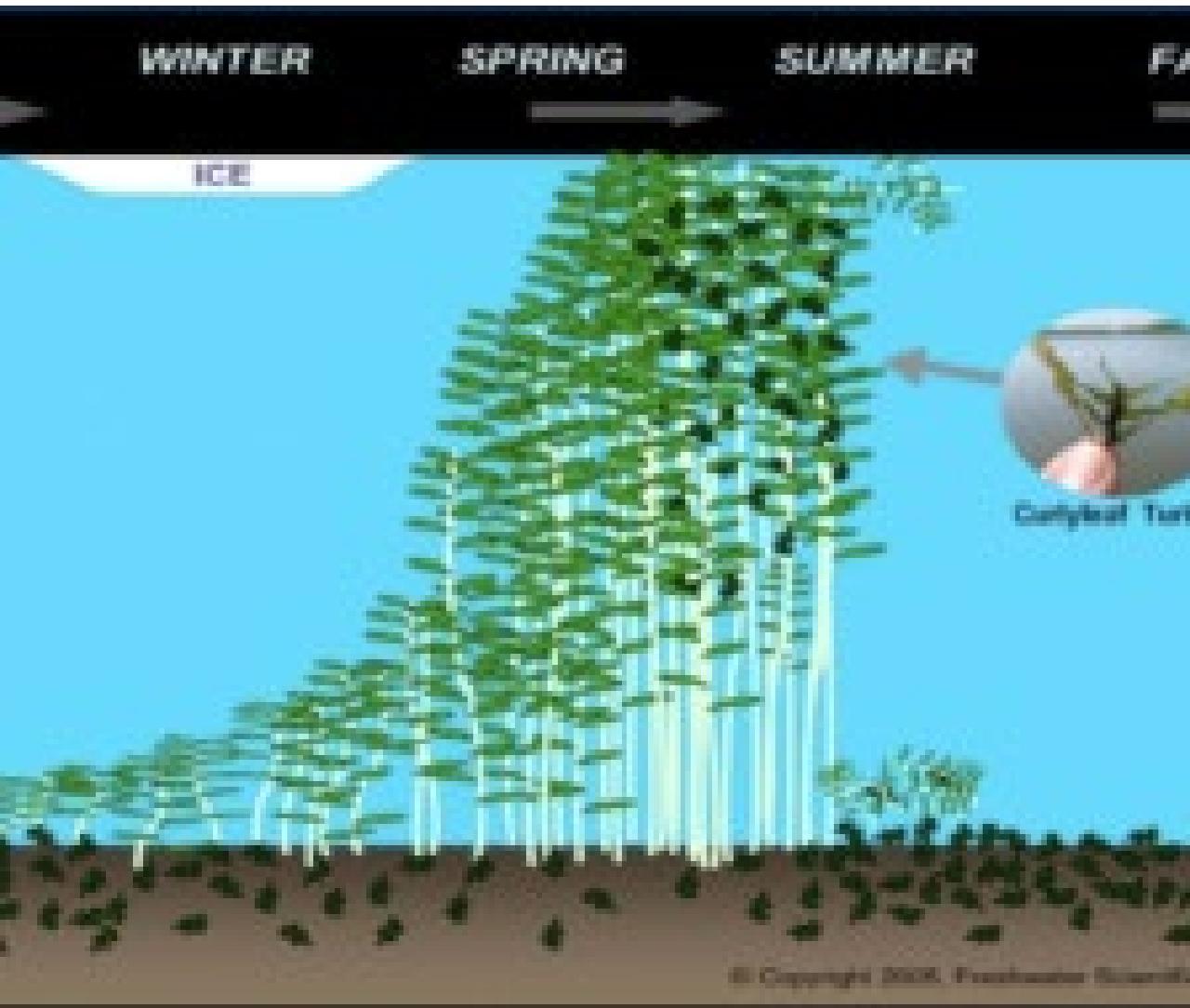
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- BioBase hydroacoustic mapping
- Boat survey
  - Trimble DGPS Data Logger
- GIS mapping
- Treatment design

# Target Noxious Aquatic Weeds



# Curly Leaf Pondweed





White Water Lily

# Curly Leaf Control

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- Galleon Herbicide Selected
  - Reduced Risk Herbicide US EPA
  - Stops turion formation within 24 hours
  - Goal was to control and prevent 2025 contributions to turion bank
- Application May 16 and 24.49 acres targeted



# Eutrosorb G Applications

- Implemented Second Year of Herrera Plan to target Phosphorus
- First application May 20<sup>th</sup> applied 28,000 pounds to strip water column and sequester Sediment P
- Second Application August 7<sup>th</sup> 14,000 pounds to target deep water releases and water column
- 840 pounds of P removed from the system

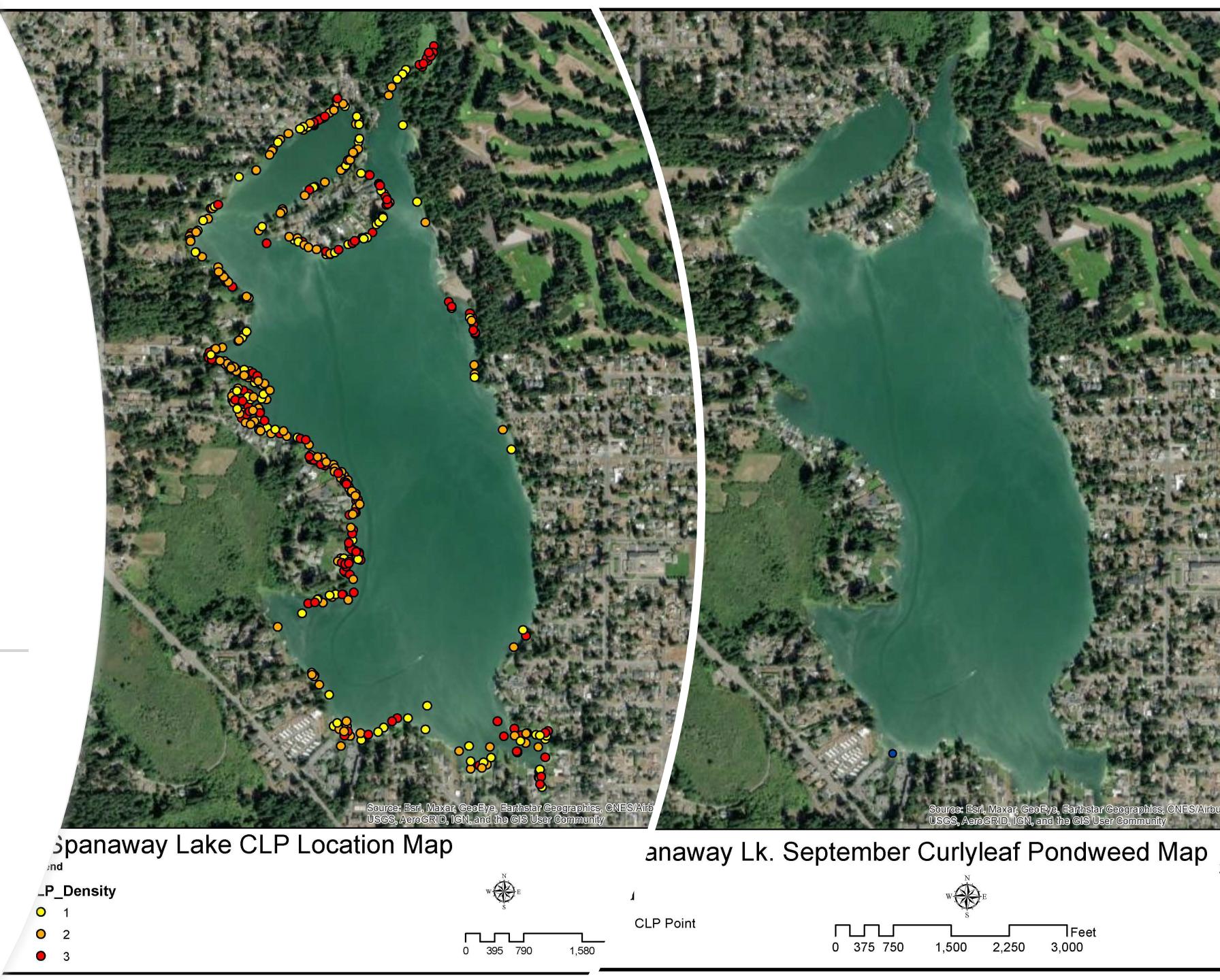


# White Water Lily Treatment

- Treatment with Rodeo and surfactant on June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Targeted scattered individual plants and larger patches
- Larger patches generally treated over time to minimize potential for mud island formation (depending on substraight)

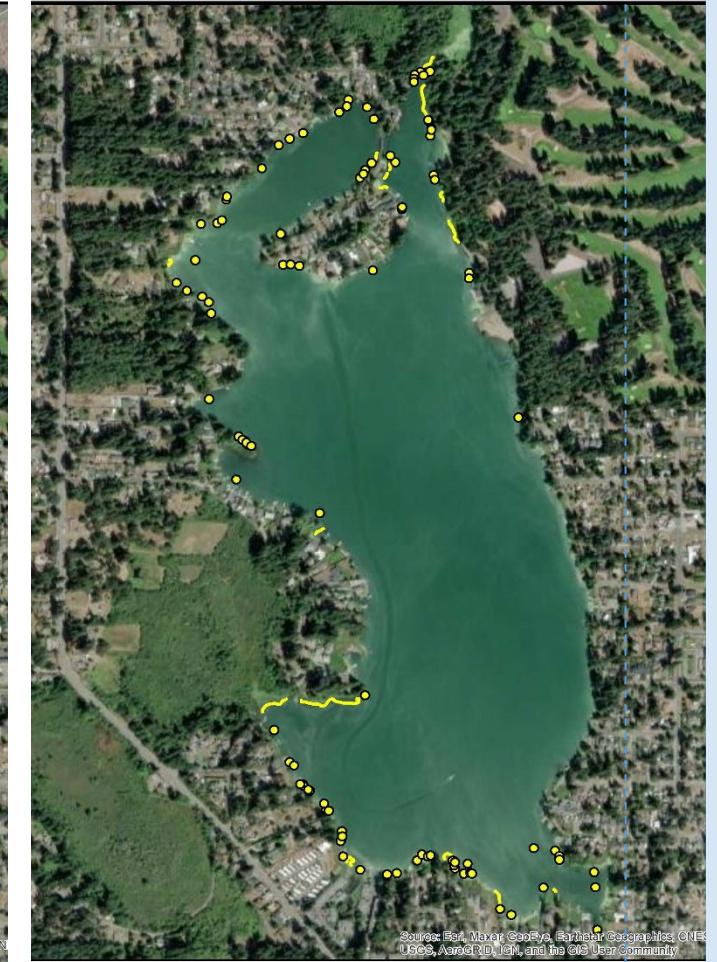


# Curly Leaf Pondweed Pre and Post Treatment



# White Water Lily

- Significant reduction
- There are some issues with treatment on lakes with significant boat traffic, wave action
- We target large patches over time to minimize potential for floating islands.



# Spanaway Lake Water Quality Monitoring

**Gopal Mulukutla, Ph.D.**

**Surface Water Management, Water Quality Section, Monitoring Unit**

**Prepared for Spanaway Lake Management District CAB**

**October 14, 2025**

With contributions from Pierce County staff:

Carol Falkenhayn Maloy, Tom Kantz, Brianne Blackburn, Monica Ponce-McDermott, Patrick Osborne, Stephen Nelson, Scott Groce, Nannette Huber, Jared Mosier, Emile Ancelet, and Jeff Barney.

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## Water Quality Monitoring

Waterbody	Locations	Monitoring Details	Data Collection	Timeframe
<b>Spanaway Lake</b>	Three Locations	Monthly lake water quality	Nutrients, chlorophyll, temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen (DO)	April - November 2025; Planned for 2026-2030 (April –November)
<b>Coffee Creek (lake Inlet) and Spanaway Creek (lake outlet)</b>	Coffee Creek Condominiums and off Military Road	Monthly creek water quality, quarterly flow, continuous sensors	Water level, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and temperature. Monthly nutrients, DO, temperature and pH	Water quality and flow measurements: October 2024-present. Sensors: June 2025-present.
<b>Spanaway Lake weather</b>	Enchanted Island and Coffee Creek Condominiums	Weather stations	Air temperature, rainfall, and relative humidity	2014-present
<b>Groundwater monitoring</b>	Two well locations	Quarterly sampling	Nutrients, temperature and pH	Planned this water year.

# Spanaway Lake Sampling Plan

## Three sites of data collection in the lake

- LW-1, LW-2, and LW-3

**Continuous sonde data** taken from surface to bottom (water column profiles) at each site for

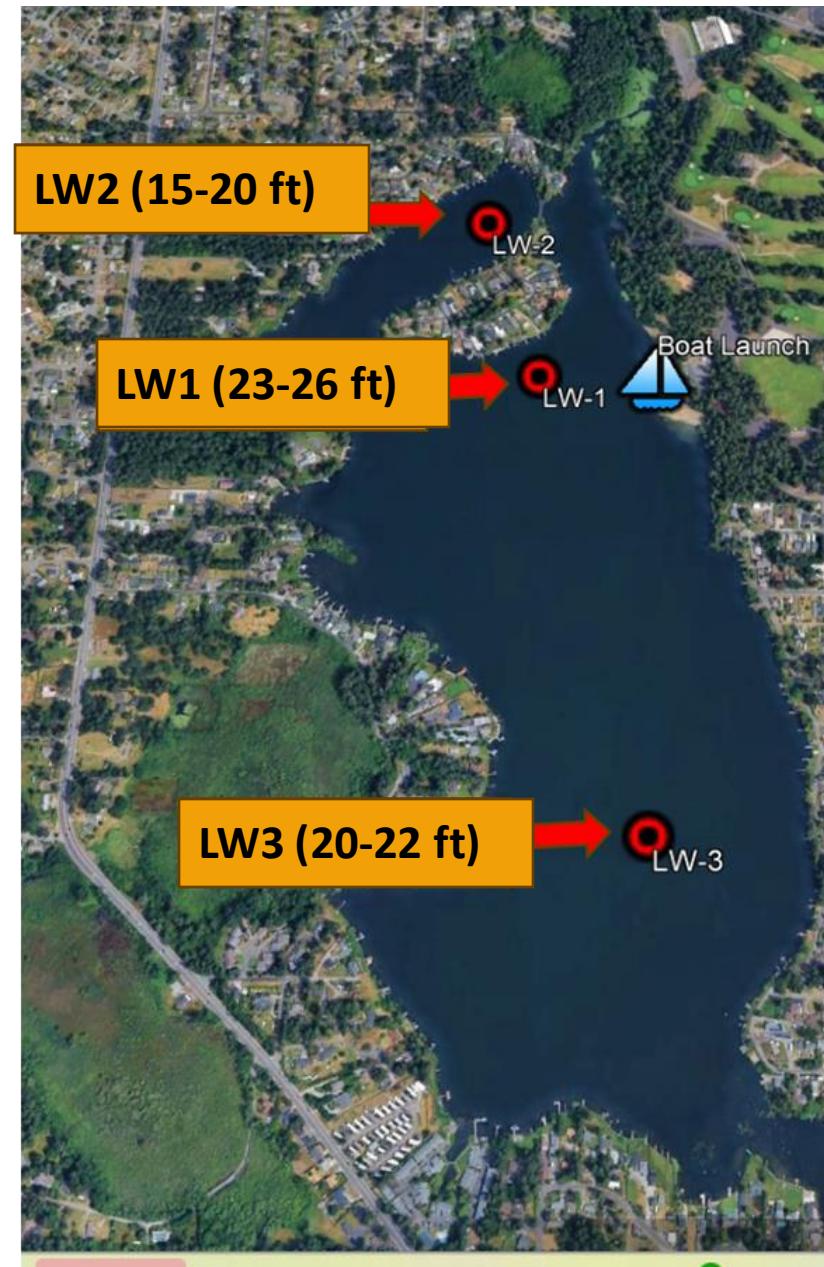
- Temperature,
- dissolved oxygen (DO),
- conductivity,
- and pH

**Bottle samples** collected at 3 depths for

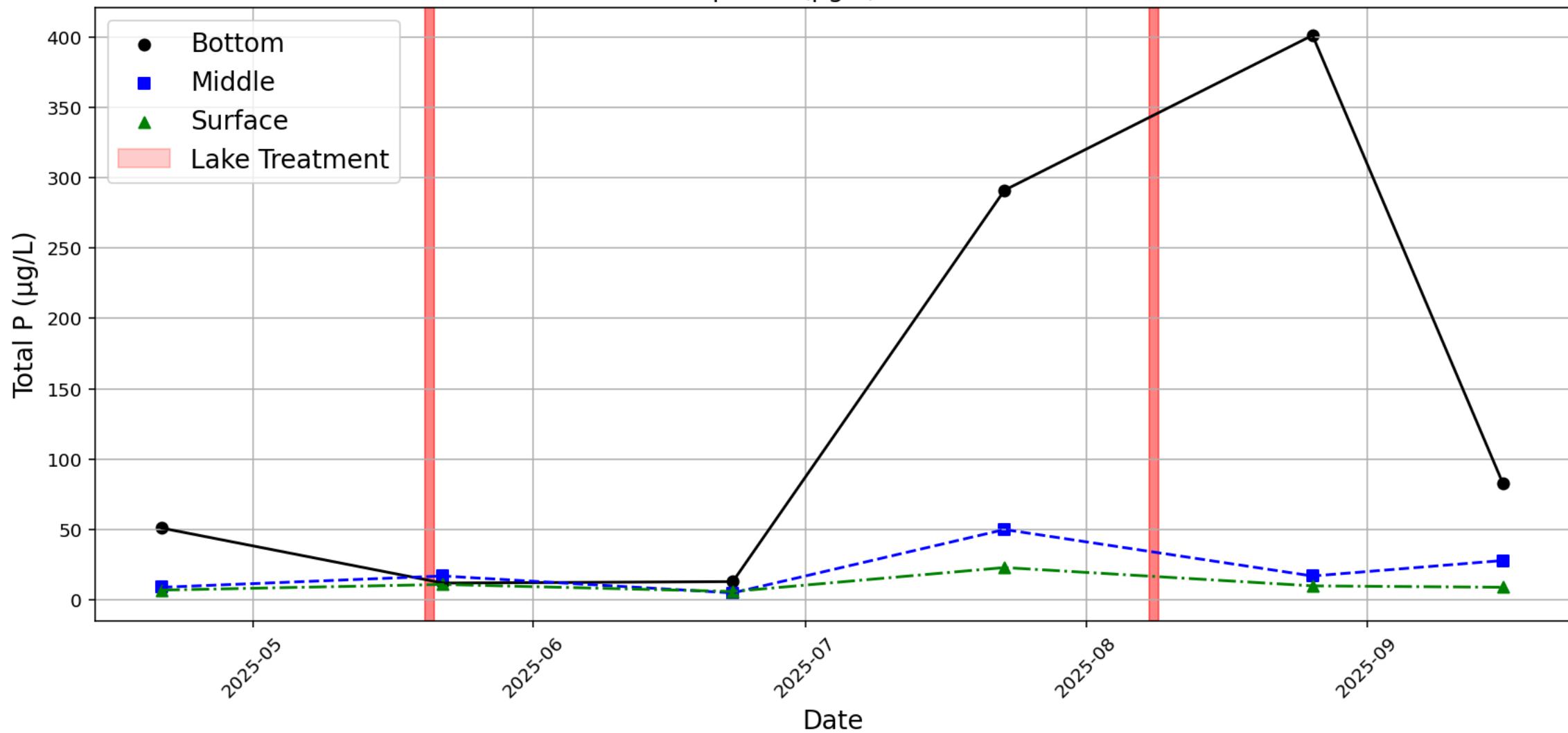
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen),
- dissolved oxygen,
- and chlorophyll (algae pigment).

## 2025 sampling dates

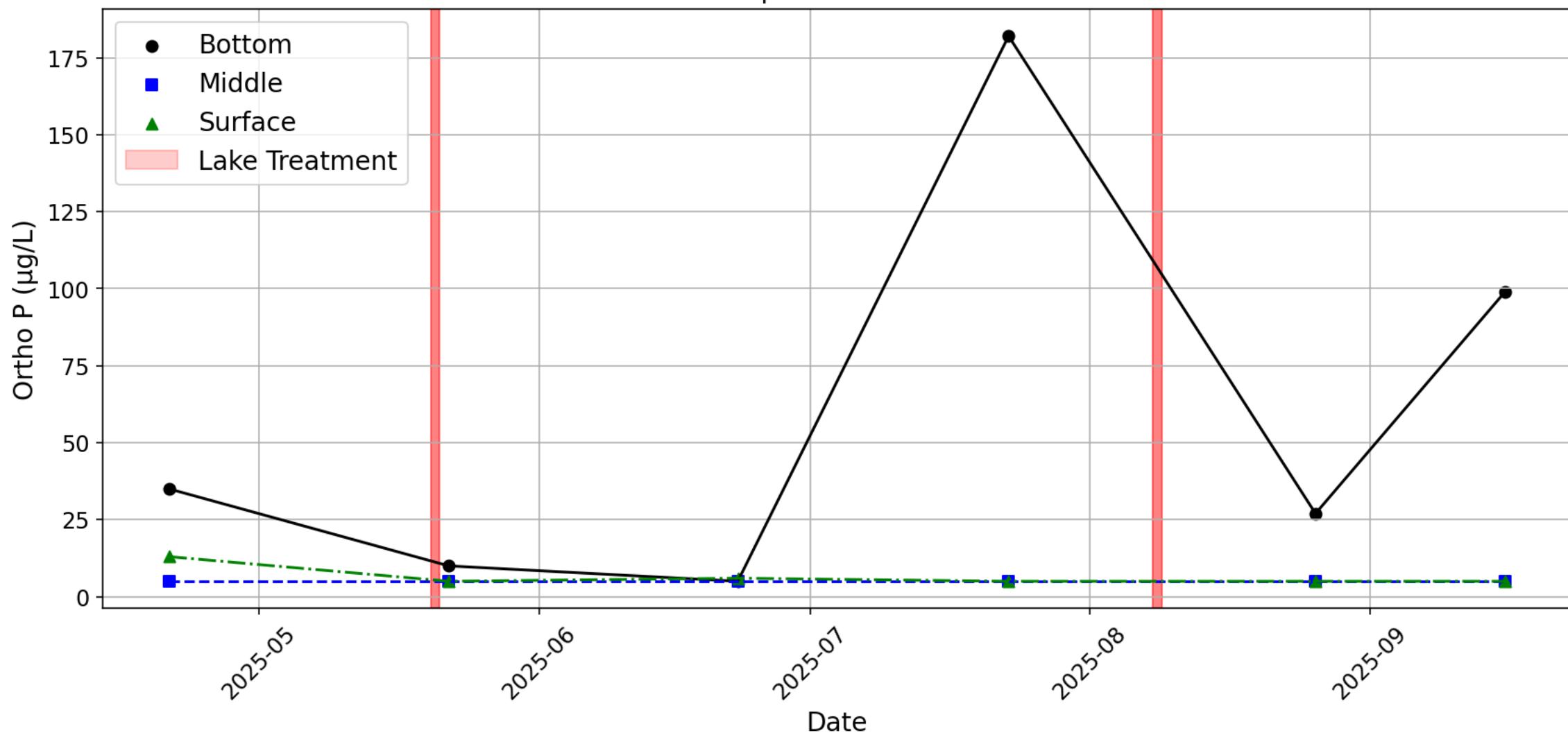
- Six samplings (April –September)
- Additional sampling planned for October and November, and into 2026-2030



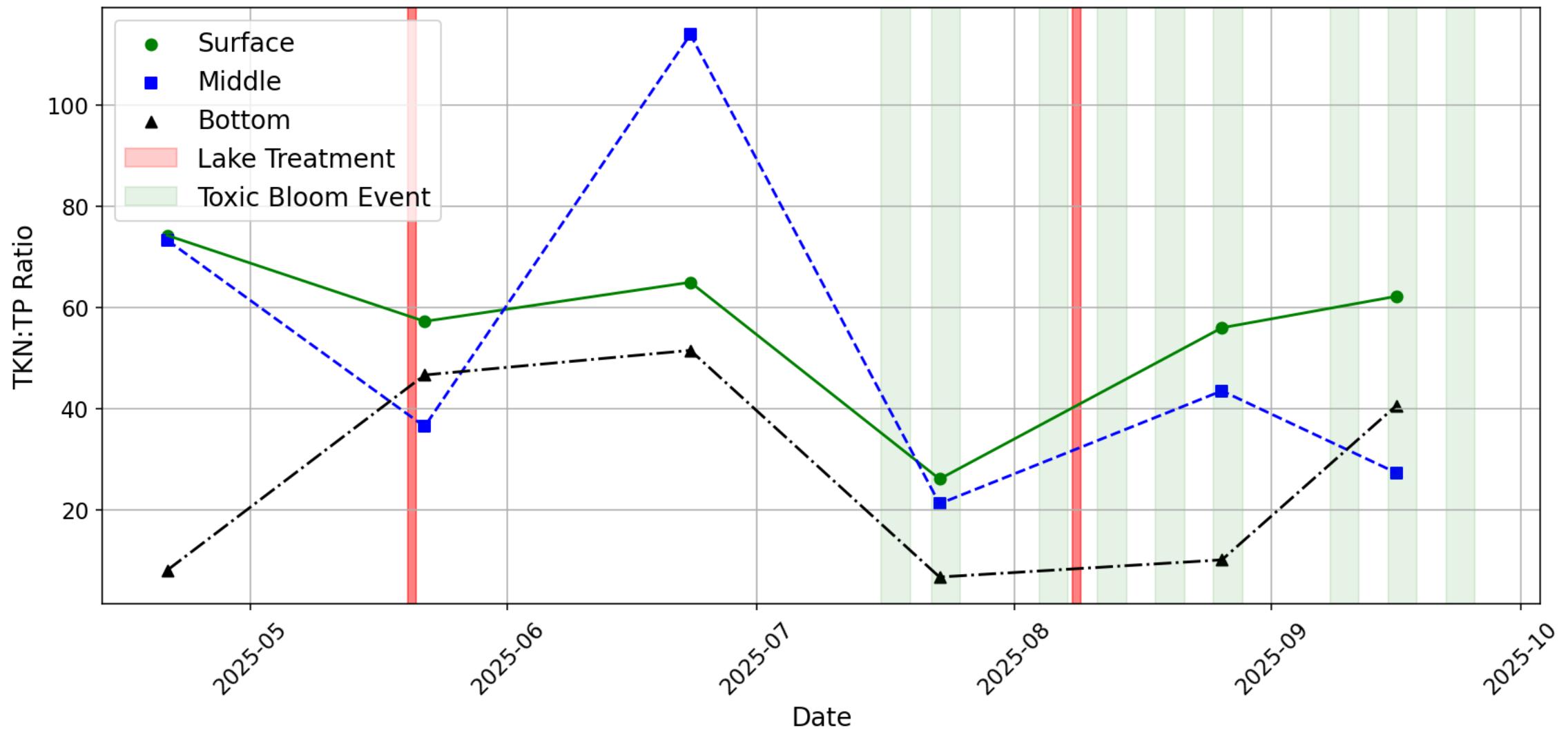
### Total Phosphorus(µg/L) at Station LW-1



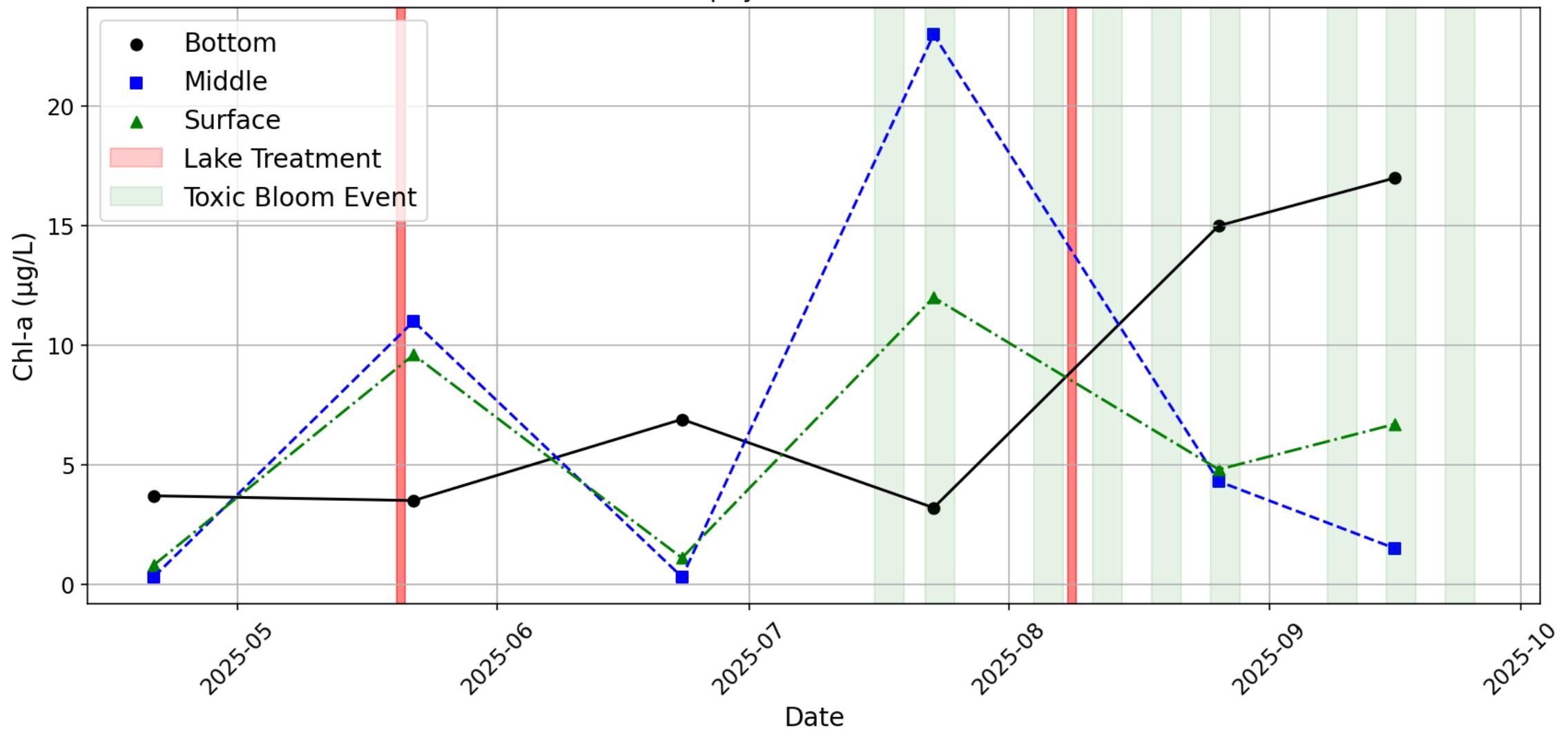
### OrthoPhosphate at Station LW-1



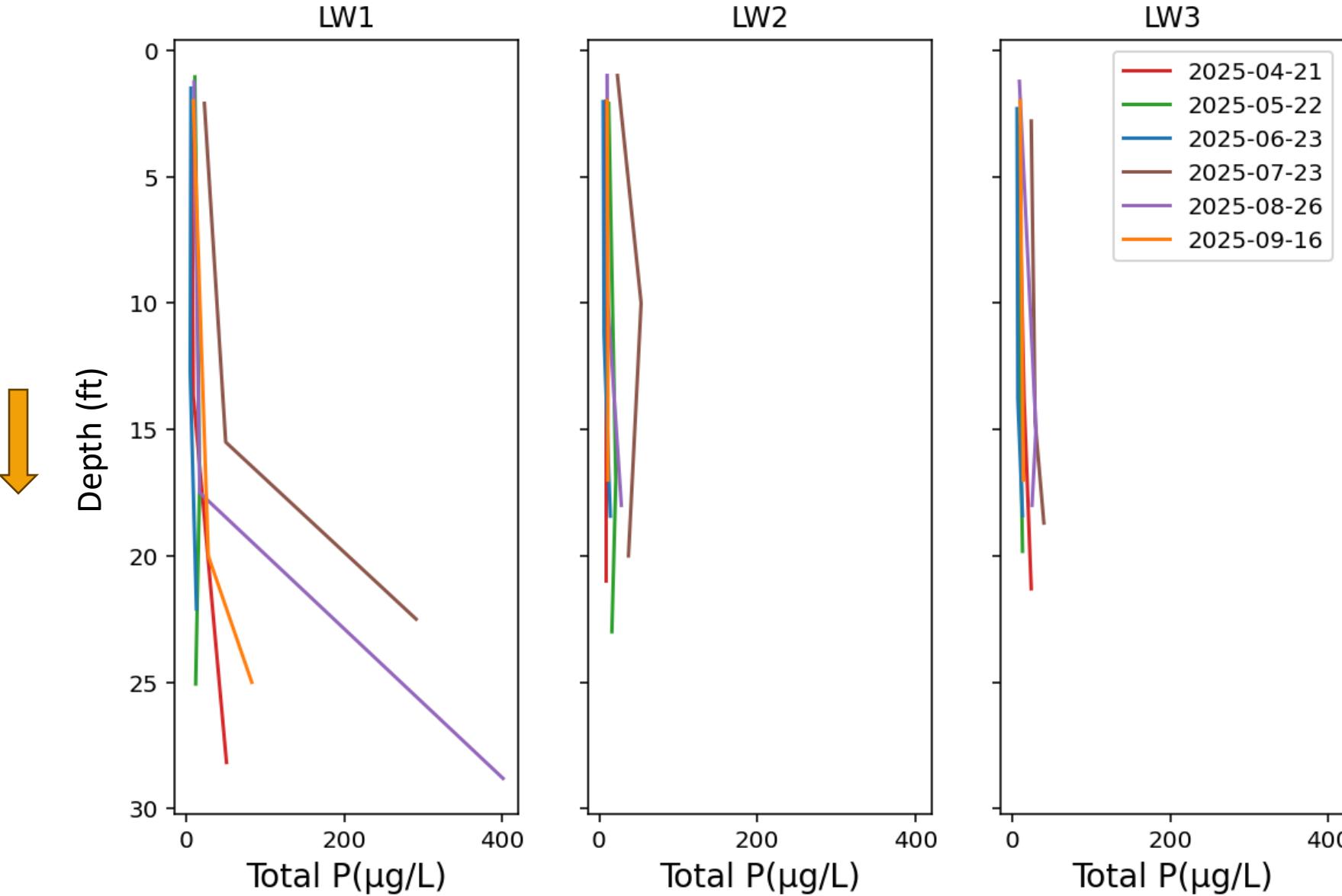
### TKN:TP Ratio for Station LW-1



### Chlorophyll-a at Station LW-1

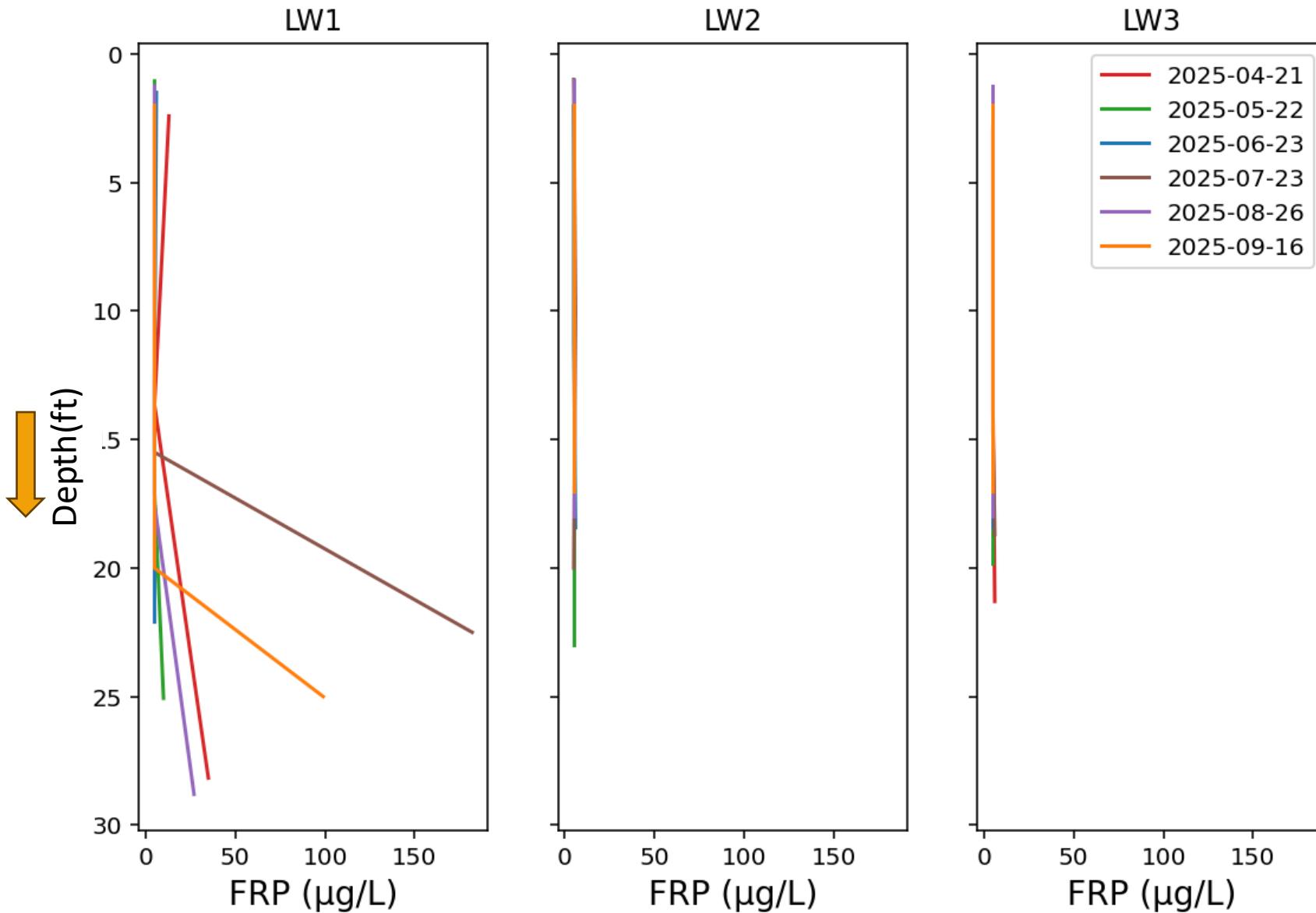


## Spanaway Lake Total Phosphorus



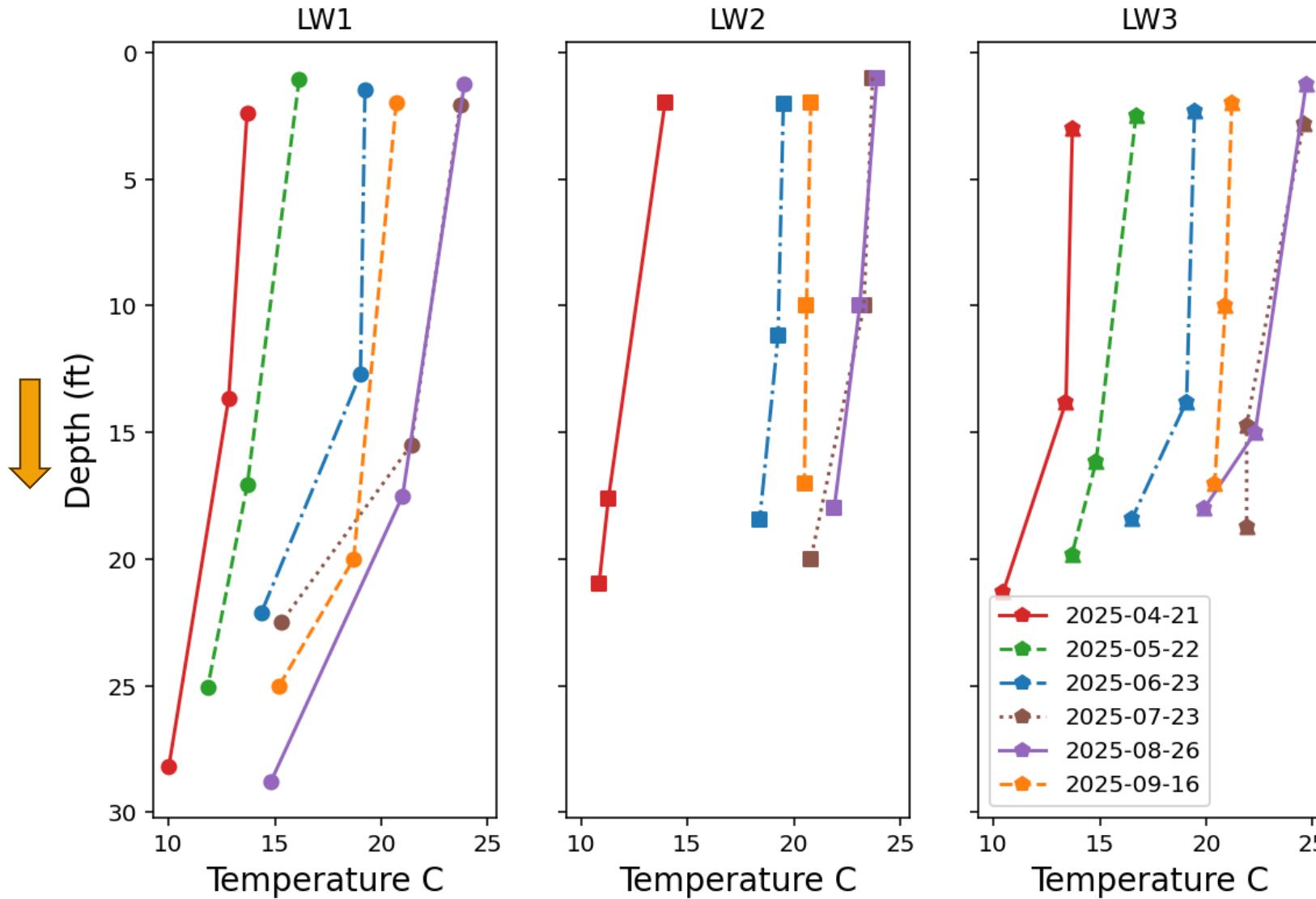
Evidence of difference in available TP between stations

## Spanaway Lake Free Reactive Phosphorus



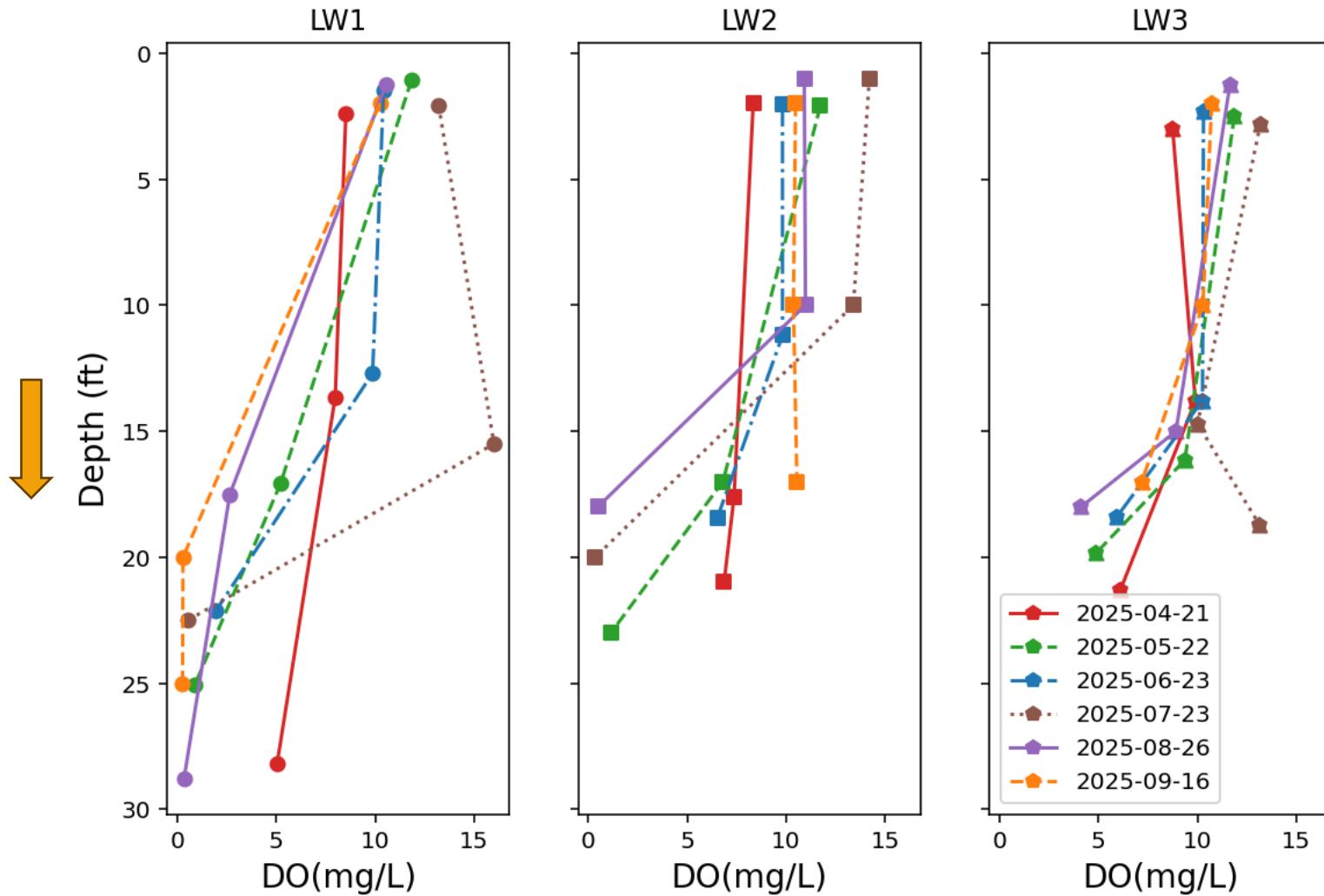
Evidence of difference  
in available FRP  
between stations

## Spanaway Lake Water Temperature



Evidence of thermal stratification occurring in the 10-20 ft depth range at station LW1 and 10-18 ft at Station LW3.  
Weak stratification at station LW2.

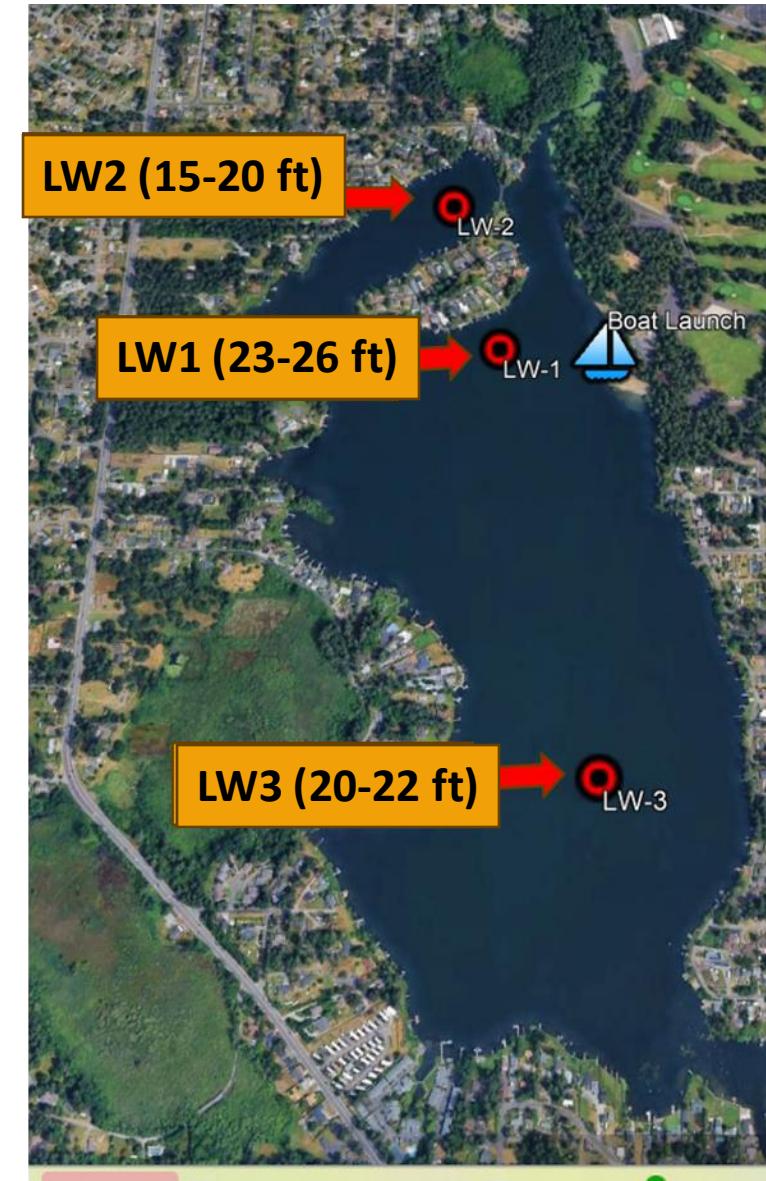
## Spanaway Lake Dissolved Oxygen



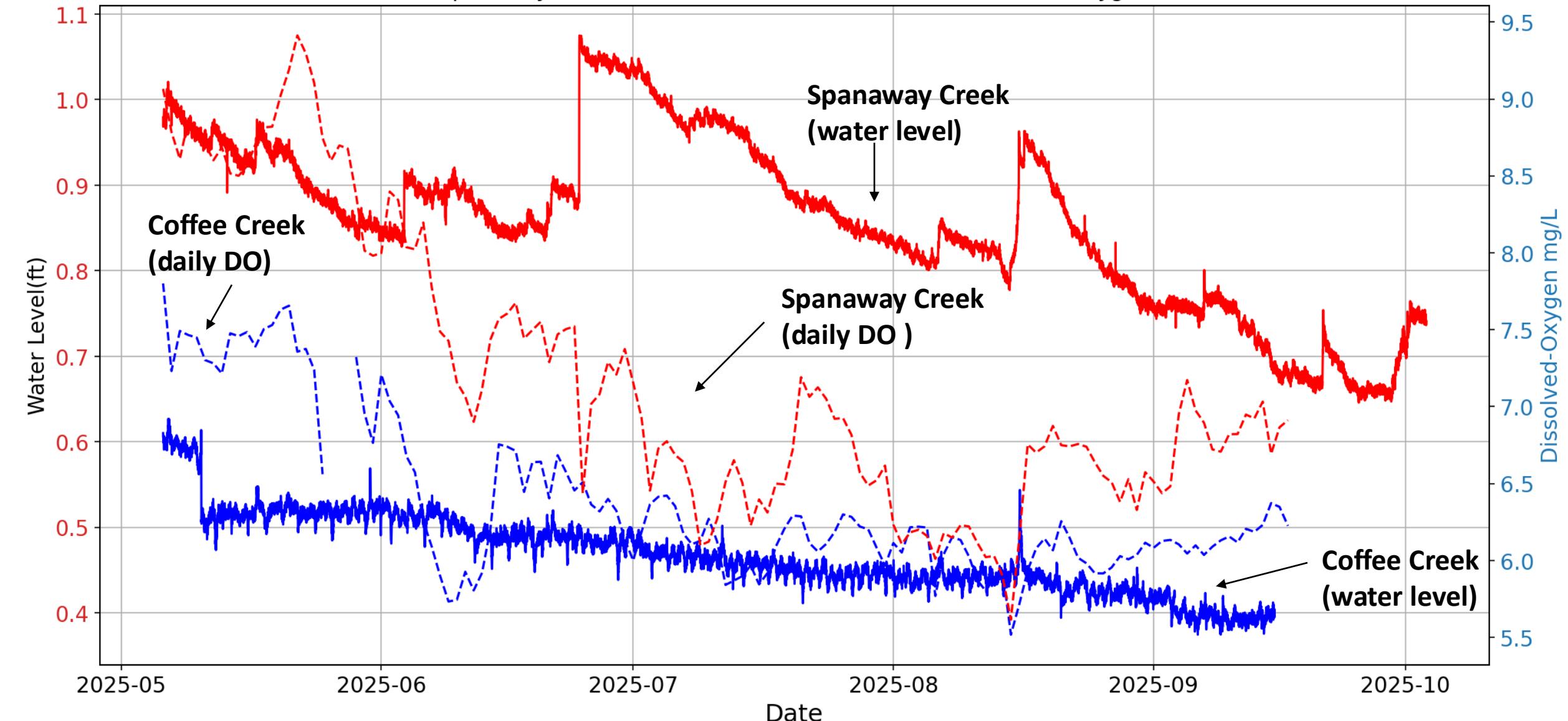
Data as expected of a lake system, with high DO values closer to the surface and lower DO levels in deeper waters.

# Lake Sampling

- Evidence of stratification occurring in the 10-20 ft depth range at station LW1 and 10-18 ft at Station LW3. Weak stratification at station LW2.
- Higher values of TP and FRP observed at station LW1.
- Changing TKN:TP ratio suggests the increasing P limitation (Lanthanum treatment having an effect). Continued monitoring will help confirm/clarify this trend.
- Monitoring planned to continue – October and November 2025, and April-November in years 2026 through 2030.



### Spanaway Creek/Coffee Creek, Water Level and Dissolved Oxygen



## Spanaway Creek and Coffee Creek Monitoring

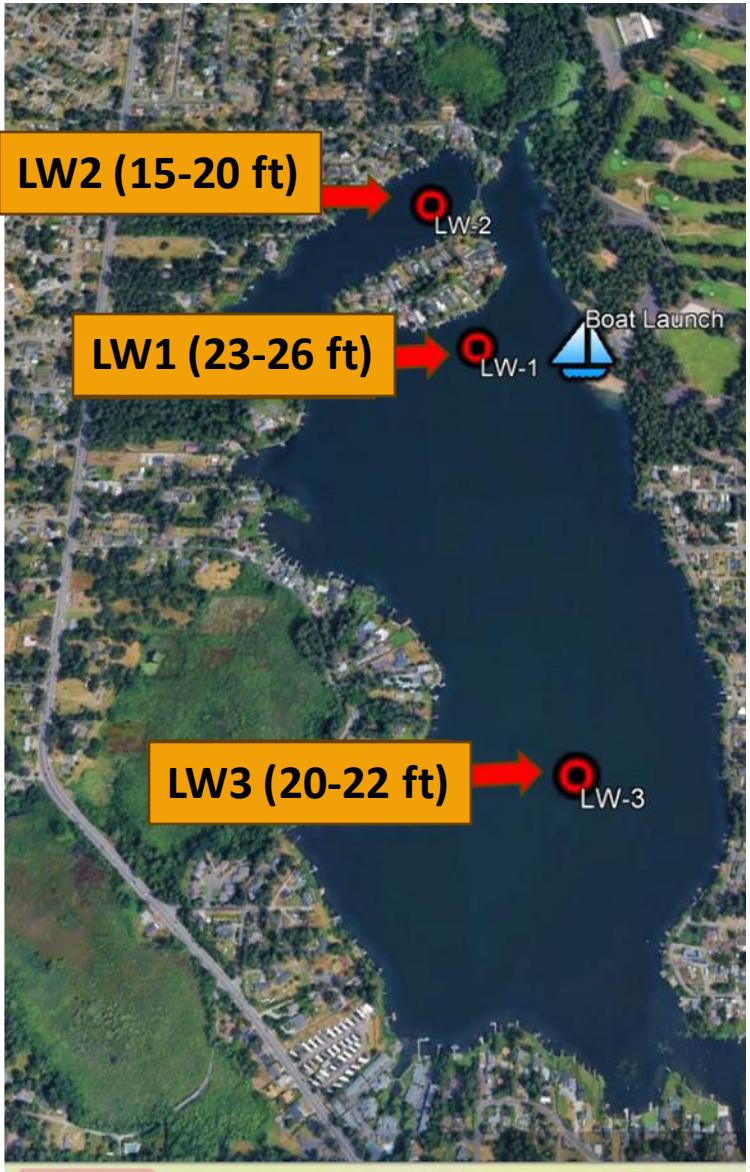
1. DO and Conductivity sensors were installed in June 2025. We plan to keep them operational to capture data of potential water quality concerns (e.g., fish die-off).
2. We conducted one-time sampling for Iron levels in stream water at four locations on Spanaway Creek and Coffee Creek. Data showed Total Iron concentration was within range of historic sampling.
3. We plan to continue monthly sampling for nutrients, DO, temperature, and pH, in addition to automated DO and streamflow measurements and water level monitoring at both locations.

# Thank you!



Spanaway Lake data collection by Pierce County staff  
aboard **R/V Dewey**

Photo credit: Brianne Blackburn

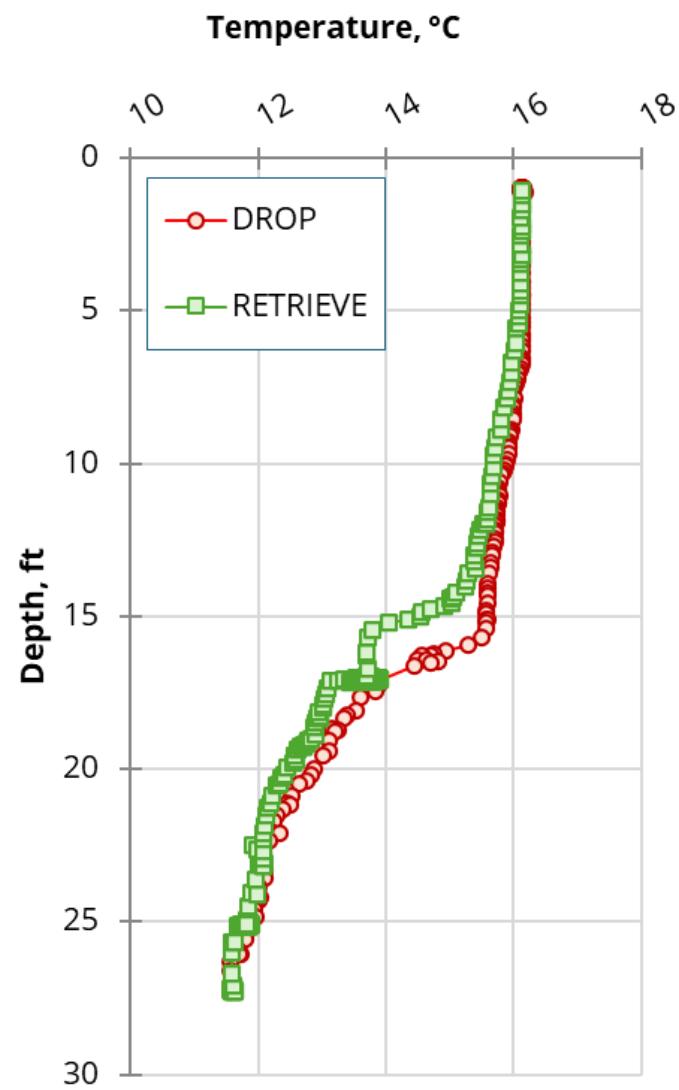


Locations	Depths	Parameter
LW1,LW2 and LW3	Epilimnion	Chlorophyll-a Nutrients (TKN <sup>1</sup> , TP <sup>2</sup> , FRP <sup>3</sup> )
	Thermocline or Mid-depth	Chlorophyll-a Nutrients (TKN, TP, FRP)
	Hypolimnion	Chlorophyll-a Nutrients (TKN, TP, FRP)
Field Replicate	Selected depth	Chlorophyll-a Nutrients (TKN, TP, FRP)
Field Blank (DI H <sub>2</sub> O)		Chlorophyll-a Nutrients (TKN, TP, FRP)
Total Samples		3 X 3+ 2 X 3= 15

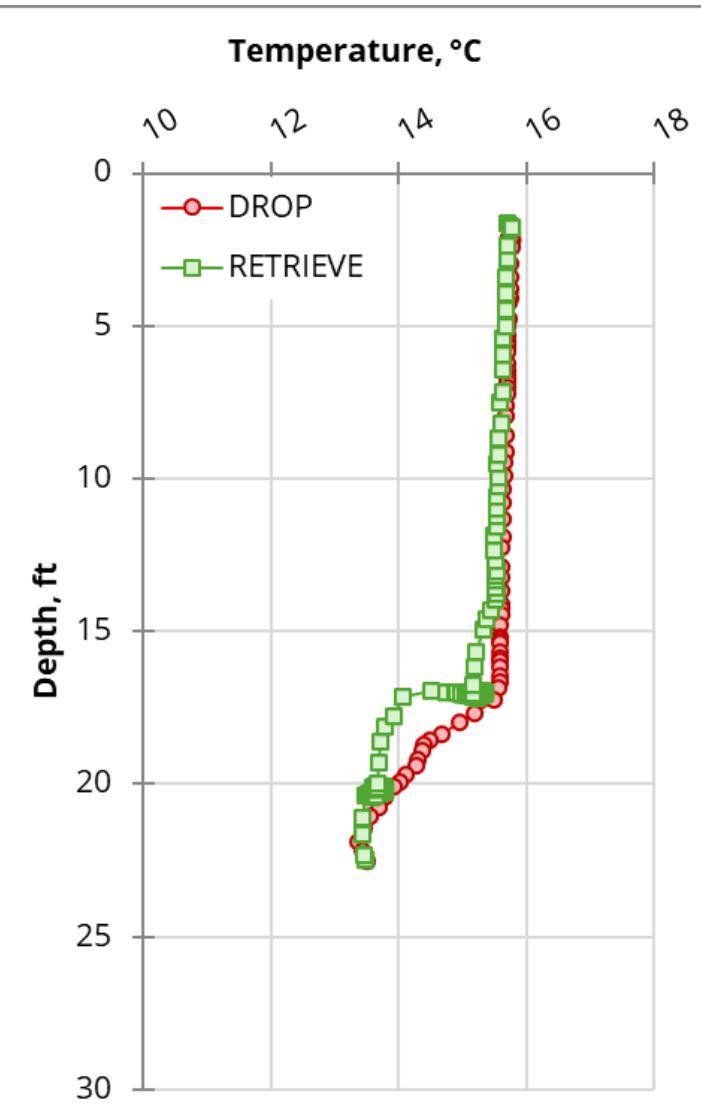
1. **TKN** - Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
2. **TP** - Total Phosphorus
3. **FRP** - free reactive phosphate

## Temperature profiles from May 2025

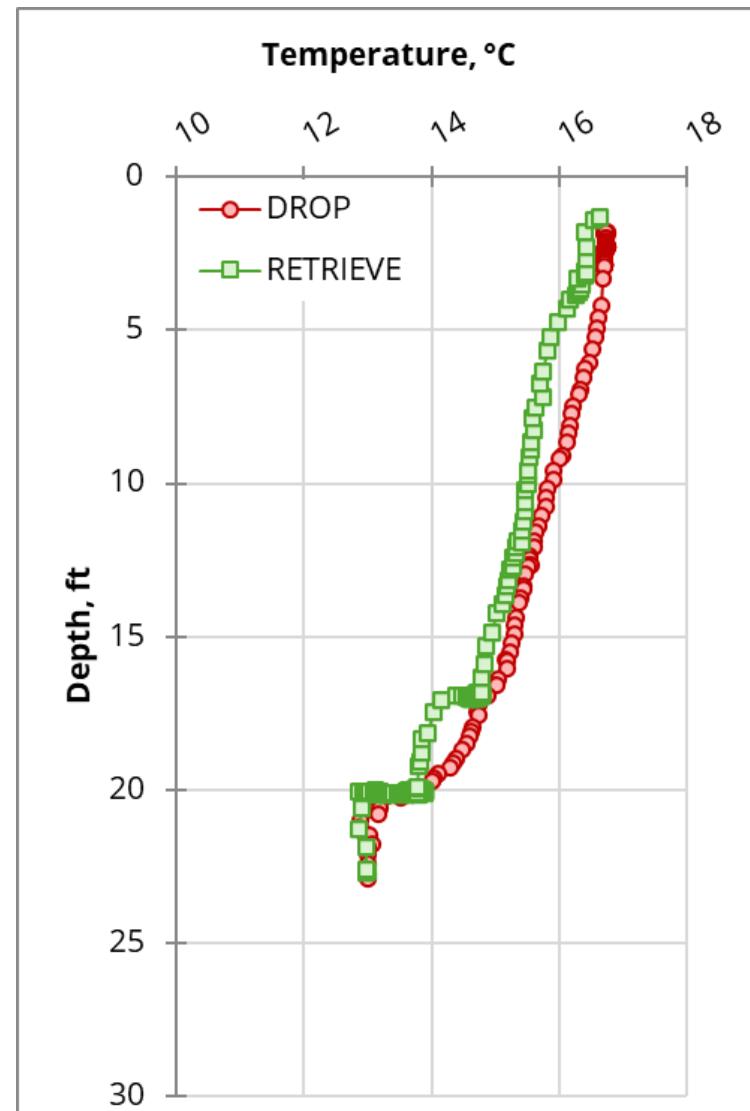
LW1



LW2



LW3



## Spanaway Creek at Bresemann Forest

Samples Collected on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Spanaway Lake at Coffee Creek Condos

Parameter	Sample	Replicate Sample
Total Iron	0.83 mg/L	0.83 mg/L
Ferrous Iron	0.088 mg/L	0.099 mg/L

Parameter	Sample
Total Iron	Non-Detect
Ferrous Iron	0.028 mg/L

## Historic PC Data ( 2014-2016)(N=37)

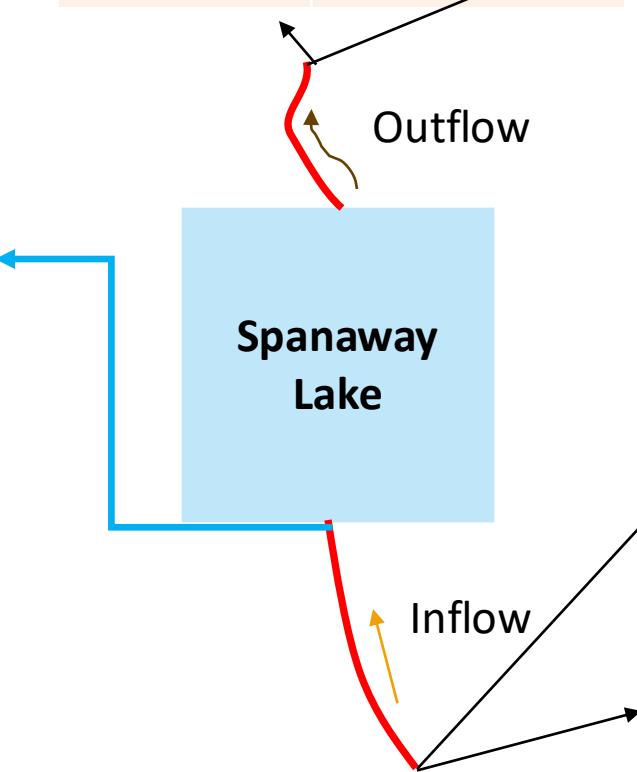
Parameter	Value
Total Iron (Average)	0.21 mg/L
Total Iron (Max)	0.93 mg/L
Total Iron (Min)	0.092 mg/L

### Coffee Creek at Coffee Creek Condos

Parameter	Sample
Total Iron	1.11 mg/L
Ferrous Iron	0.09 mg/L

### Historic data (Ecology) (2014-2015) (N=73)

Parameter	Value
Total Iron (Average)	0.49 mg/L
Total Iron (Max)	1.24 mg/L
Total Iron (Min)	0.09 mg/L



A photograph of a lake with fog or low-hanging clouds. The water is calm, and the far shore is lined with trees. In the foreground, there are some rocks and aquatic plants.

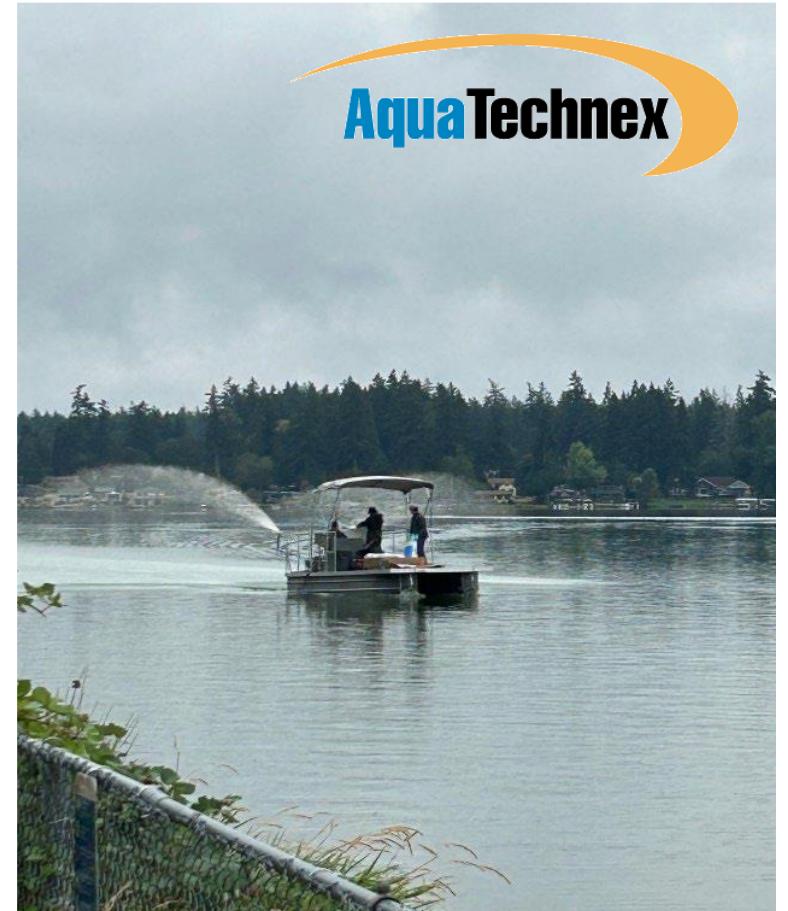
# Spanaway Lake – Water Quality Restoration

Monitoring update Oct 2025

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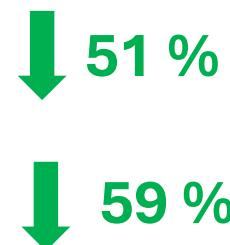
# Phosphorus Mitigation Applications to Date

- Partial doses to reduce water column phosphorus + address P release from sediment
  - August 2024 – 36,000 lbs. EutroSORB G
  - May 2025 – 28,000 lbs. EutroSORB G
  - August 2025 – 14,000 lbs. EutroSORB G
- Mitigation targeted 1,560 lbs. of P (708kg) to date
- ~25% of sediment mobile phosphorus in deep part of lake dosed to date



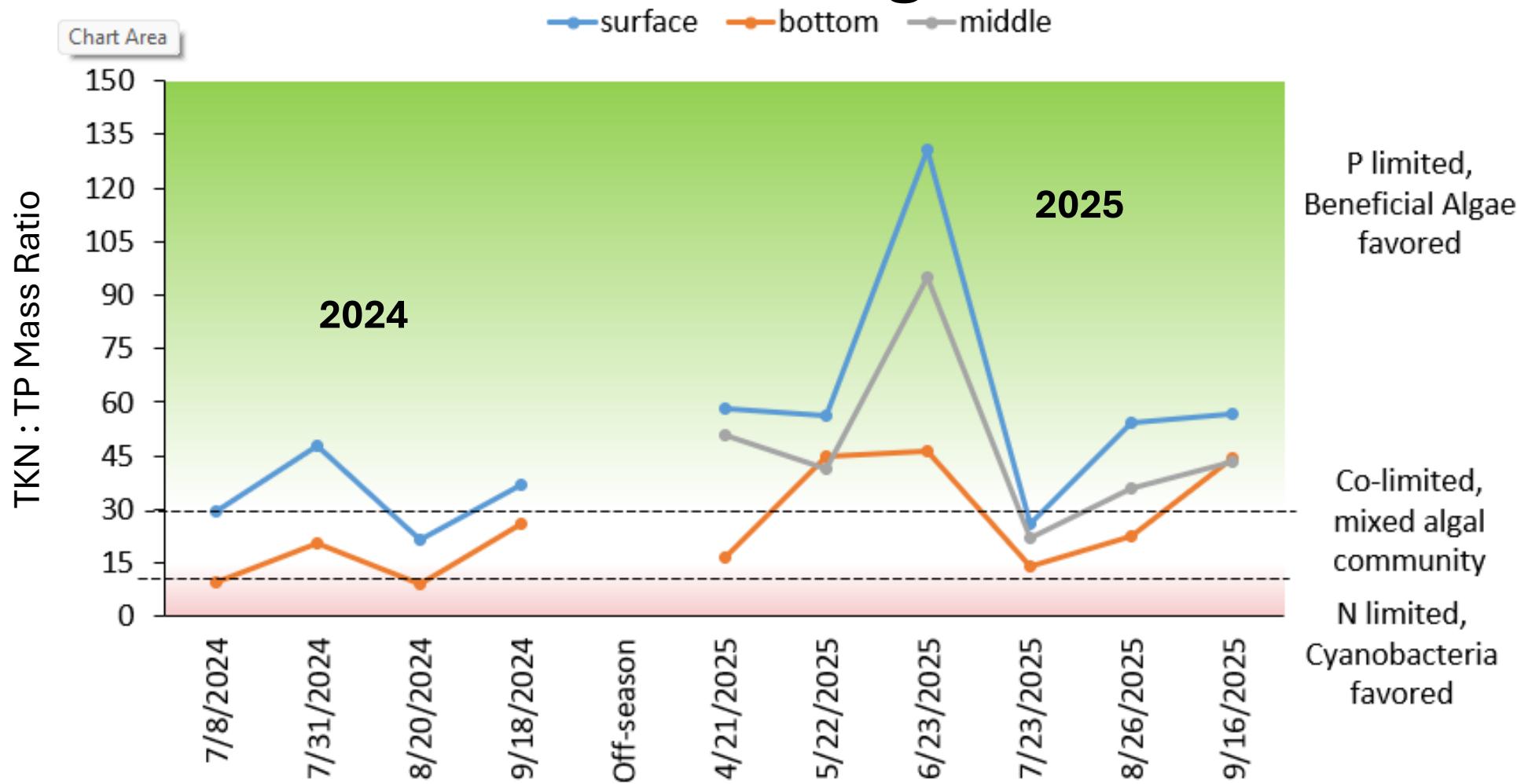
# Phosphorus trends showing strong reductions in total phosphorus for 2025 to date

Total Phosphorus reported as seasonal mean in ug/L			
Lake Layer	June – October 2021 (Pre-treatment)	July-Sept 2024	May – Sept 2025
Epilimnion (Surface)	28	18	13.6
Hypolimnion (Bottom Water)	215	211	87.9
	Herrera 2023	Aquatechnex 2024	Pierce County + Aquatechnex 2025

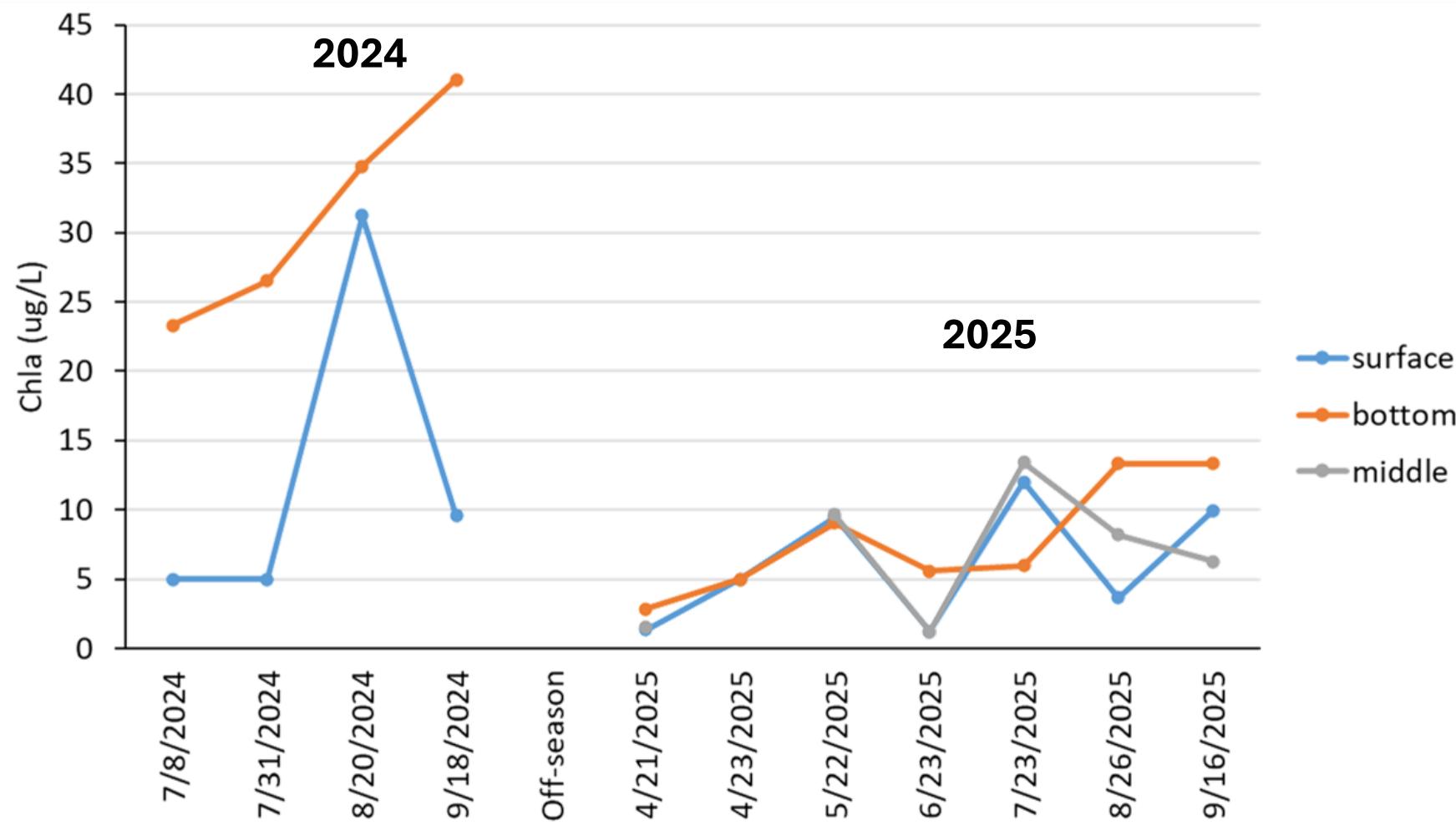


\*Data as of 9/30/2025

# Shift in Nitrogen : Phosphorus nutrient ratios more favorable for beneficial algae

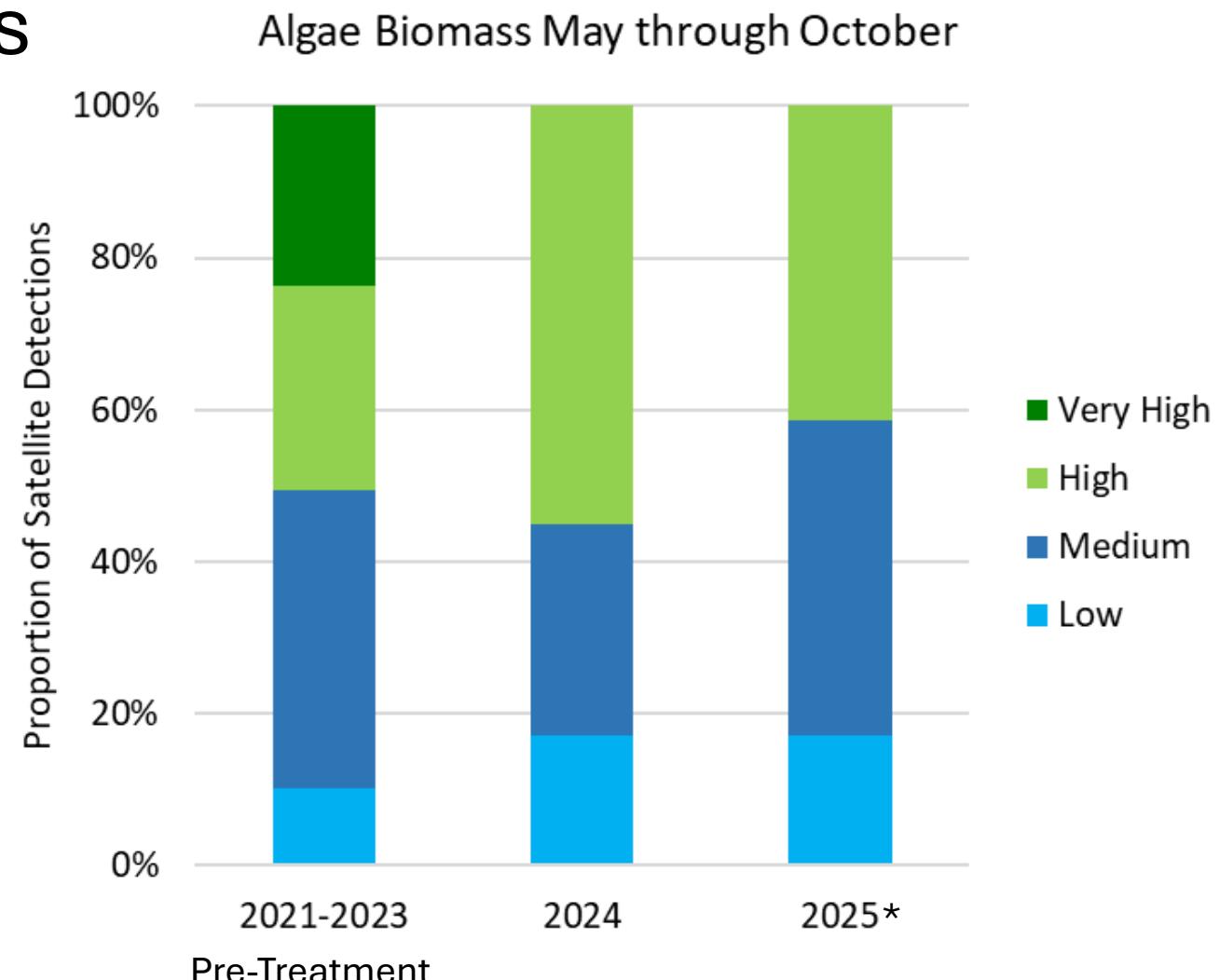


# Lower algae biomass from lab samples (chlorophyll a)



\*Data as of 9/30/2025

# Water Quality Improvements tracked from Satellite



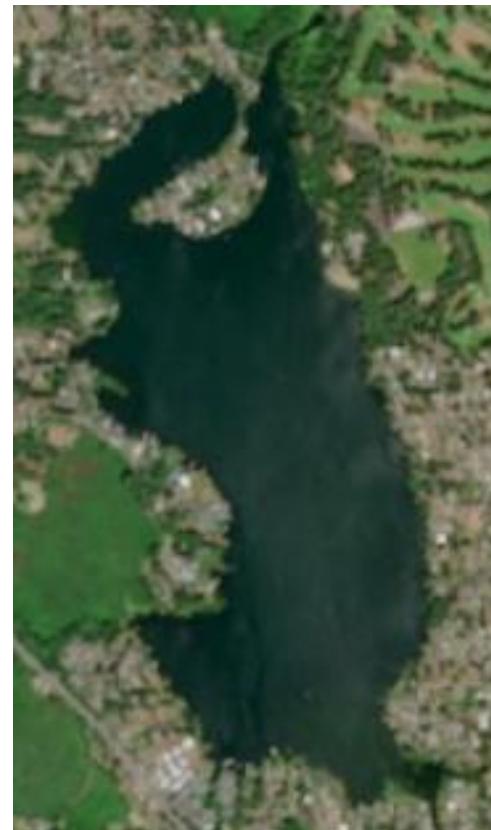
\*Data as of 9/30/2025



October 2022  
Pre-treatment  
Lakewide HAB bloom



October 2024  
post-treatment



June 2025  
Post-treatment



Sept 2025  
Post-treatment  
**Lower extent and severity  
algae and cyanobacteria**

# Summary to date

- X% of mobile sediment P dosed to date, partial improvements should be expected so far
- Trends indicating improvements in water quality parameters each year (Phosphorus, N:P ratios, Chla)
- Responses in algae community detected, lower chlorophyll a and biomass