



**AquaTechnex**

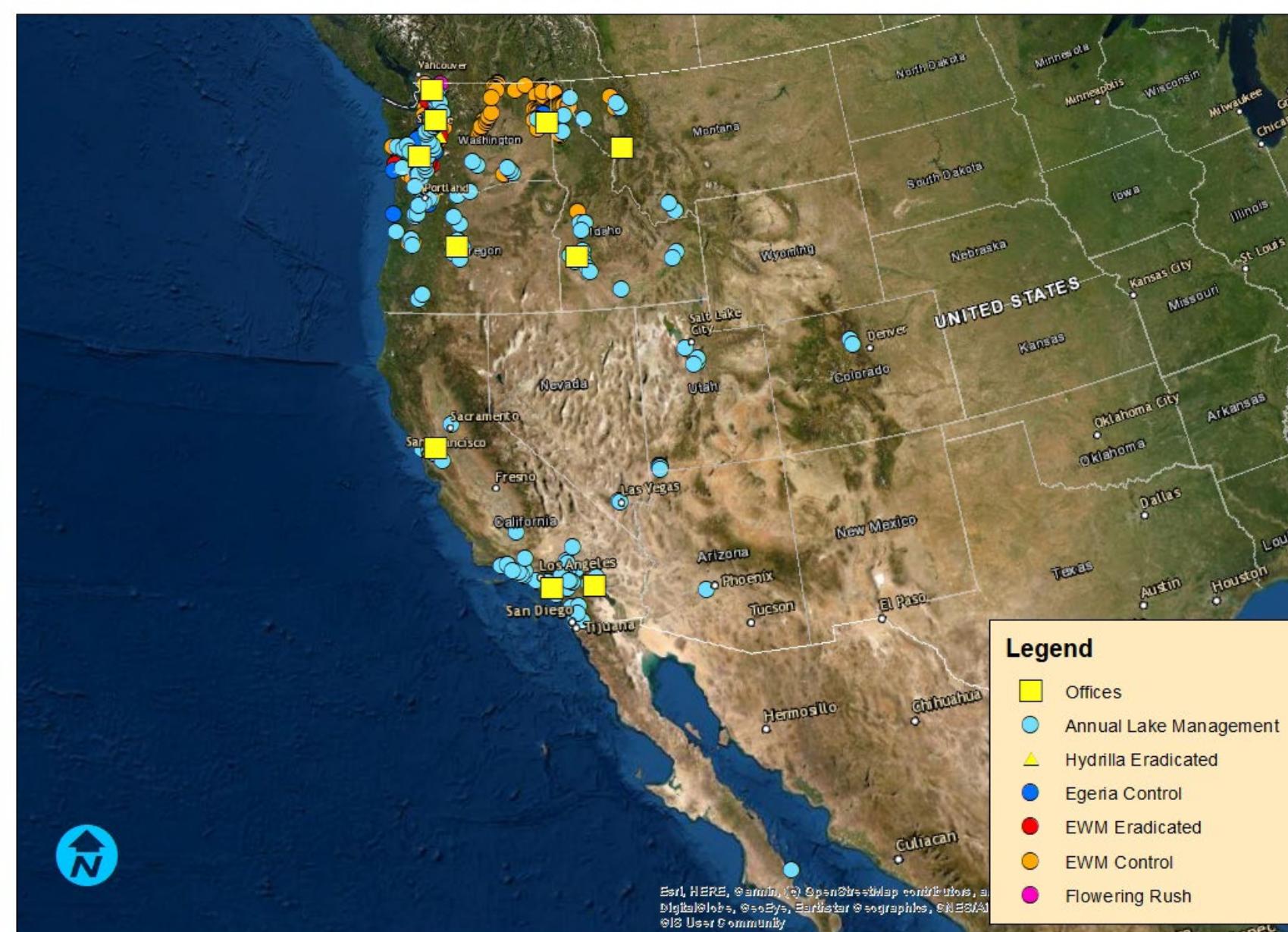
# Alum Treatment Technology for Lake Lawrence

Terry McNabb, CLM  
Aquatechnex, LLC

# Terry McNabb

- Graduate Michigan State University, BS Water Resource Management 1979
- Have worked in this field since 1970
- Past President, Aquatic Plant Management Society ([www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)) and North American Lake Management Society ([www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org))
- Certified Lake Manager, CLM
- California Pest Control Advisor, PCA
- GCSAA Lake Management Instructor
- UC Davis Aquatic Weed School Faculty





Aquatechnex Major Lake Management and Invasive Aquatic Weed Projects

## Company Overview Over Four Decades of Lake Management Experience

- Expertise in management of invasive aquatic plants
- Expertise in management of HAB
- Research Contract Annually with WES/ERDC since 1987
- Snake River Quagga Mussel Treatments Last two years

# A couple other things

- Aquatechnex operates both OST and nanobubble systems throughout our region
- Aquatechnex operates aerial drone technology for mapping and treatment
- Our multi spectral drone imaging system can map chlorophyll a and HAB Blooms
- We are starting daily satellite monitoring program next week on service contract accounts



# Harmful Algae Blooms

- Produce acute toxins
  - Liver toxins
  - Nervous system toxins
- Produce Chronic toxins to waterfowl
  - Avian vascular Myelinopathy
- Potentially have human health impact
  - [Http://aquatechnex.com/2012/01/does-tap-water-cause-lou-gehrigs-als-disease/](http://aquatechnex.com/2012/01/does-tap-water-cause-lou-gehrigs-als-disease/)
  - This image is Lake Erie near Toledo Ohio Potable Water Intake



# HAB and Long-Term Exposure

- Direct link to compounds produced and ALS
- Exposure can be from airborne toxins
- Exposure can be from potable water supply from impacted reservoir
- UF news 2020, “can travel 10 miles in light wind”

**Journal of Environmental Monitoring**

Cite this: *J. Environ. Monit.*, 2011, **13**, 1617  
[www.rsc.org/jem](http://www.rsc.org/jem)

**PAPER**

**Quantitative assessment of aerosolized cyanobacterial toxins at two New Zealand lakes**

S. A. Wood<sup>a\*</sup> and D. R. Dietrich<sup>b</sup>

Received 1st February 2011, Accepted 23rd March 2011  
DOI: 10.1039/c1em10102a



**Environmental Health NEWS**

FRONT PAGE TOXIFICATION CHILDREN WATER POPULATION OCEANS FOOD & AG ENERGY CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY AIR

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**Closing in on ALS? Link between lethal disease and algae explored**

By Lindsay Konkel  
Staff Writer  
Environmental Health News

**Toxic load: blue-green algae's role in motor neuron disease**

September 25, 2013 3:05pm EDT



Pretty but deadly, microscopic blue-green algae is linked to neurodegenerative diseases. [Read more](#)

**Toxins** OPEN ACCESS

ISSN 2072-6651  
[www.mdpi.com/journal/toxins](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/toxins)

**Article**

**Detection of Cyanotoxins,  $\beta$ -N-methylamino-L-alanine and Microcystins, from a Lake Surrounded by Cases of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

Sandra Anne Banack<sup>1</sup>, Tracie Caller<sup>2,3</sup>, Patricia Henegan<sup>3,4</sup>, James Haney<sup>4,\*</sup>, Amanda Murby<sup>4</sup>, James S. Metcalf<sup>1</sup>, James Powell<sup>1</sup>, Paul Alan Cox<sup>1</sup> and Elijah Stommel<sup>3,\*</sup>

# Harmful Algal Blooms and ALS

A new study points to a connection between cyanobacterial blooms and ALS survival.

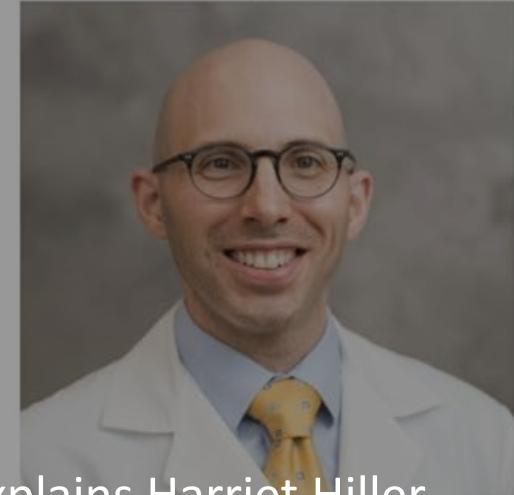
May 29, 2025

Author | [Shoshanna Fischhoff](#) >



- “These findings are important in our investigations into ALS risk factors,” explains Harriet Hiller Research Professor Stephen Goutman, M.D., M.S. “They suggest that cyanobacterial blooms, may be a modifiable environmental risk factor influencing ALS progression. This means that by limiting exposure to these toxins can bring us one step closer to making ALS a preventable disease.”

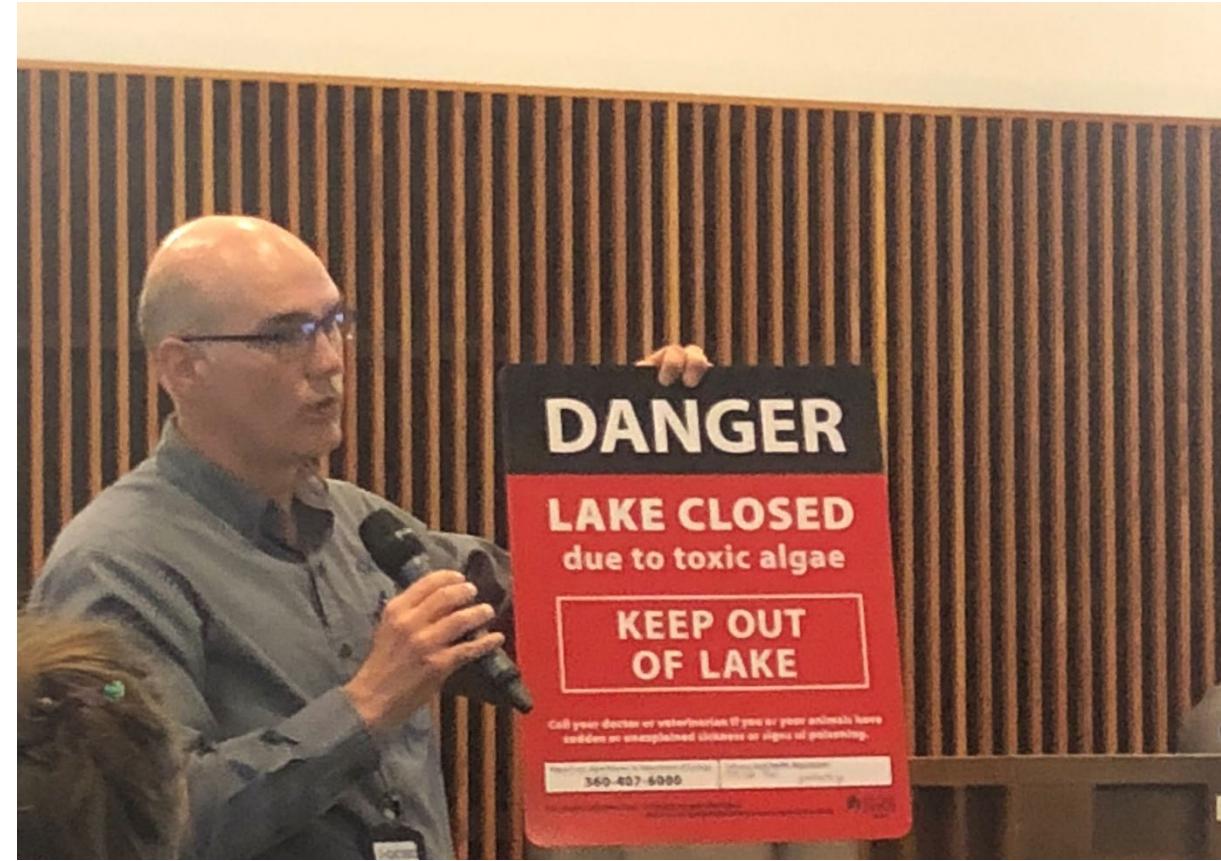
## In This Story



[Stephen Goutman, M.D., M.S.](#) >

Associate Professor





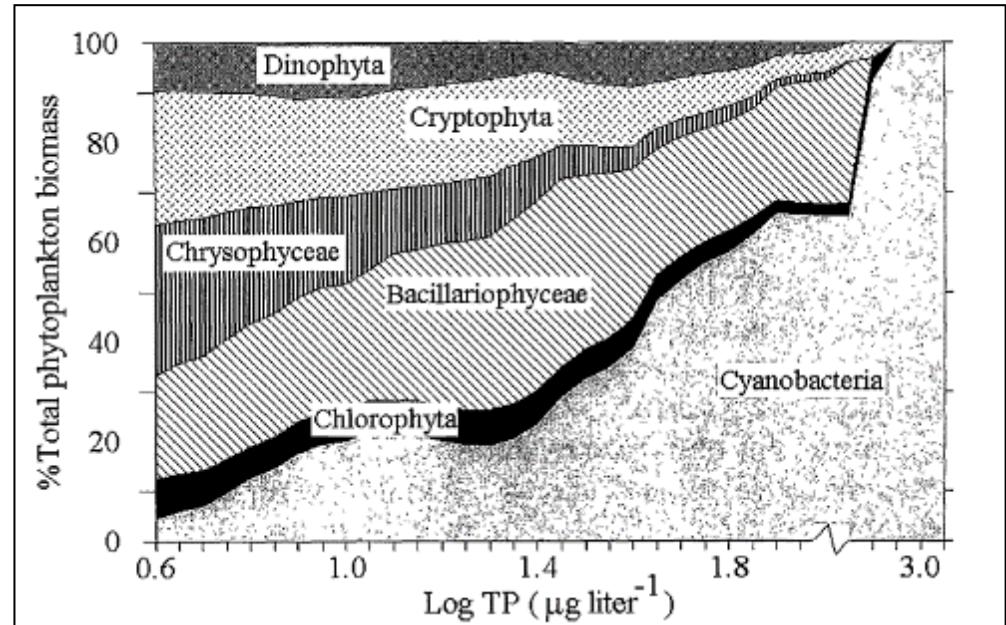
Most Common Result to this point  
Health Department measures Toxin,  
close the lake



## Nutrient Inactivation

# Why Phosphorus?

- Phosphorus control is critical to mitigating eutrophication.  
(Carpenter, S.R. 2008)
- Eutrophication of lakes cannot be controlled by reducing nitrogen input: results of a 37 year whole ecosystem experiment.  
(Schindler, D.W., et. al. 2008)



Watson SB, McCauley E, Downing JA 1997. Patterns in phytoplankton taxonomic composition across temperate lakes of different nutrient status.  
*Limnology and Oceanography* 42: 487–495.



## Our Experience with Phosphorus Sequestration

- 1970's Lake Lansing (MI) and Skinner Lake (IN) US EPA Clean Lakes Studies, alum treatments
- Ongoing since then as necessary in our work, Big Bear Lake CA 750,000 Gallons applied 2015
- Orange County Parks RFP, primary issue was algae management in reclaimed water lakes
- Discovered Lanthanum technology in 2010

# Canyon Lake



- 500 Acre potable water reservoir in Southern California
- TMDL set for Phosphorus about 2010 with numeric targets
- We have treated twice per year, spring to target inflows from 73 square mile watershed, just before turnover to target internal loading. Treatments annually since 2011
- **One of the few lakes in the Country that has met TMDL Target for Phosphorus, achieved in 2015**



## Alum Operations

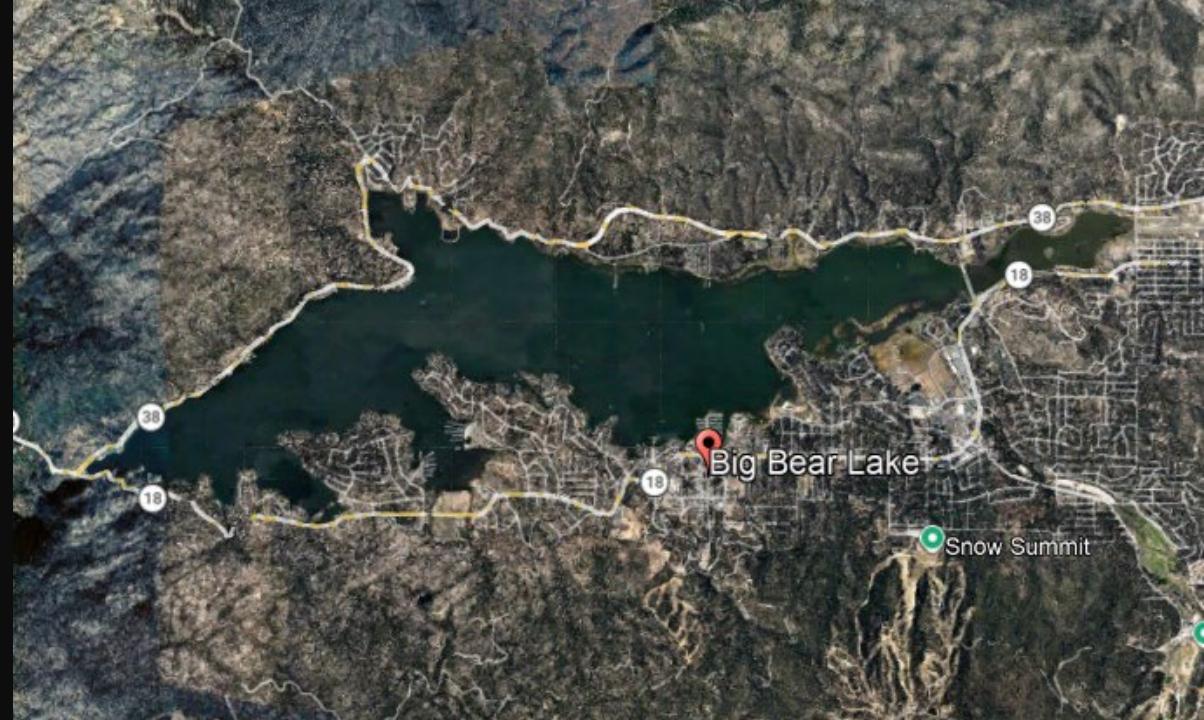
- We utilize the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association boat ramps for operations
- We generally receive and apply 4-5 truck loads per day
- Operations do not interfere with lake use or boat launching

# Big Bear Lake, San Bernadino CO. CA

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- 2,900 acre reservoir at 8,000-foot elevation in San Bernadino mountains.
- Won bid by approximately \$300,000.00
- Applied 750,000 gallons of Alum in three weeks utilizing multiple application teams
- Delivery Logistics were complicated and we effectively managed just in time

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## Big Bear Lake Alum Application

- Our treatment vessels are optimized for alum treatments
- Treatment plan is developed and uploaded to boats
- Utilize precision application equipment including DGPS guidance and flow control technologies
- Using multiple boats removes the need for Shoreline Tanks and transfer

# Long Lake , WA

- Study by Tetra Tech suggested total reset using Alum treatment, cost \$3 million USD
- 330-acre lake, 2 basins
- Internal P loading primary issue, on-going external loading
- Annual treatment budget from Lake Management District
- 2021 started Lanthanum Modified Bentonite and low dose Alum applications



# Washington Experience with Alum

- Lake Stevens, Snohomish County 1,200 acre application, multiple years 2011 through present
- Long Lake, Thurston County, combo treatment Alum and Eutrosorb
- Moses Lake, subcontracted Alum to Solitude/Performed 2,000 acre Eutrosorb treatment 2024
- Lake Ketchum, Snohomish County, 2014-2018, awarded 2026-2029 contract this past week
- Campbell Lake, Skagit County, 2025 started with Friends of Campbell Lake, added to the LMD project contract for this year.

# Adaptive Management

- Many projects that forecast long term results do not deliver projected longevity
- Many lakes that have issues can not afford extensive study
- Adaptive Management is ongoing process that can be more cost effective

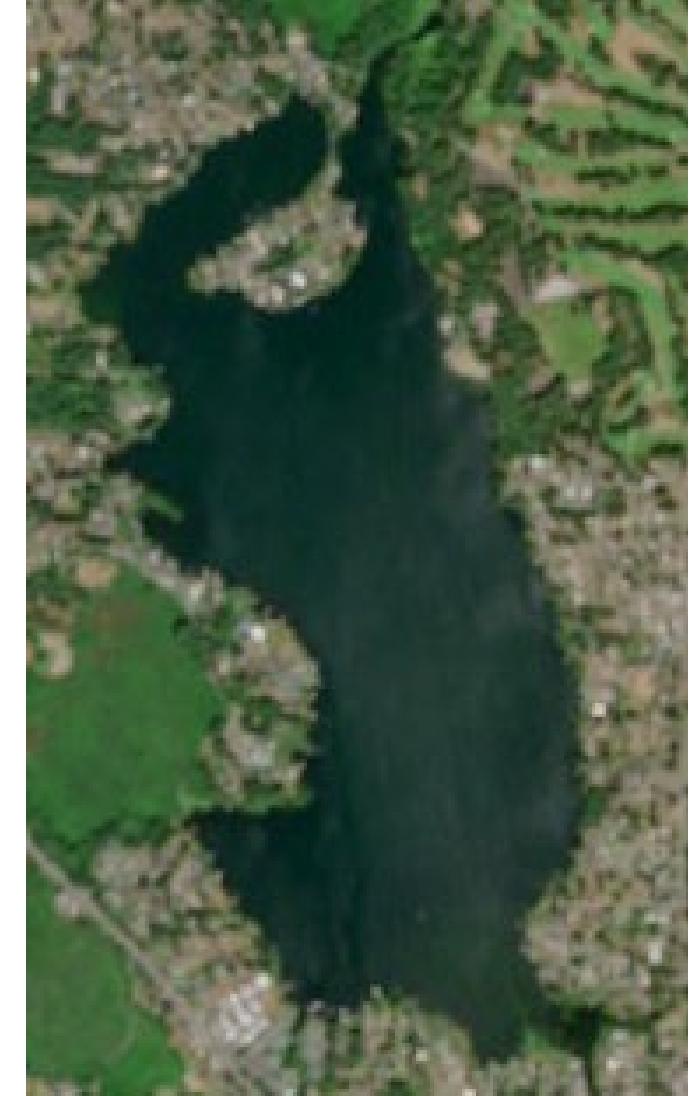




October 2022 HAB bloom



October 2024, post-treatment

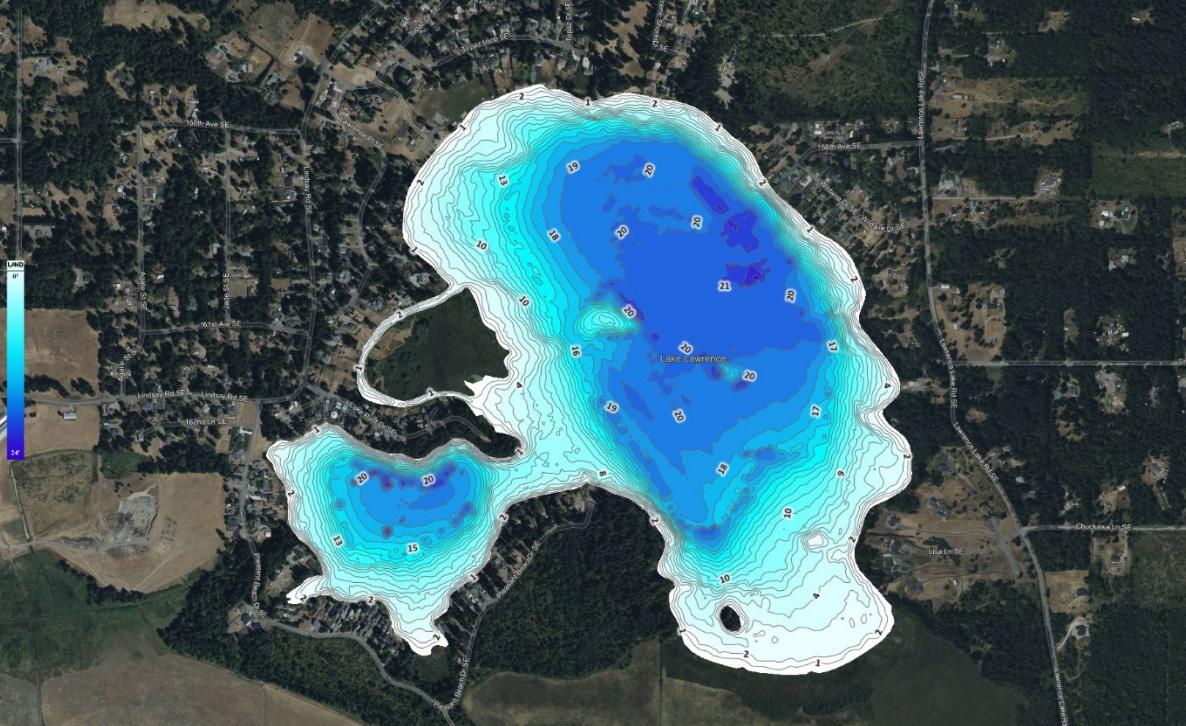


June 2025, post-treatment

# Lake Lawrence

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- Bathymetry and lake volume map used to calculate doses
- Sediment composition map can be used to target organic deposits



Clear | Track | Layers

Layers Opacity:

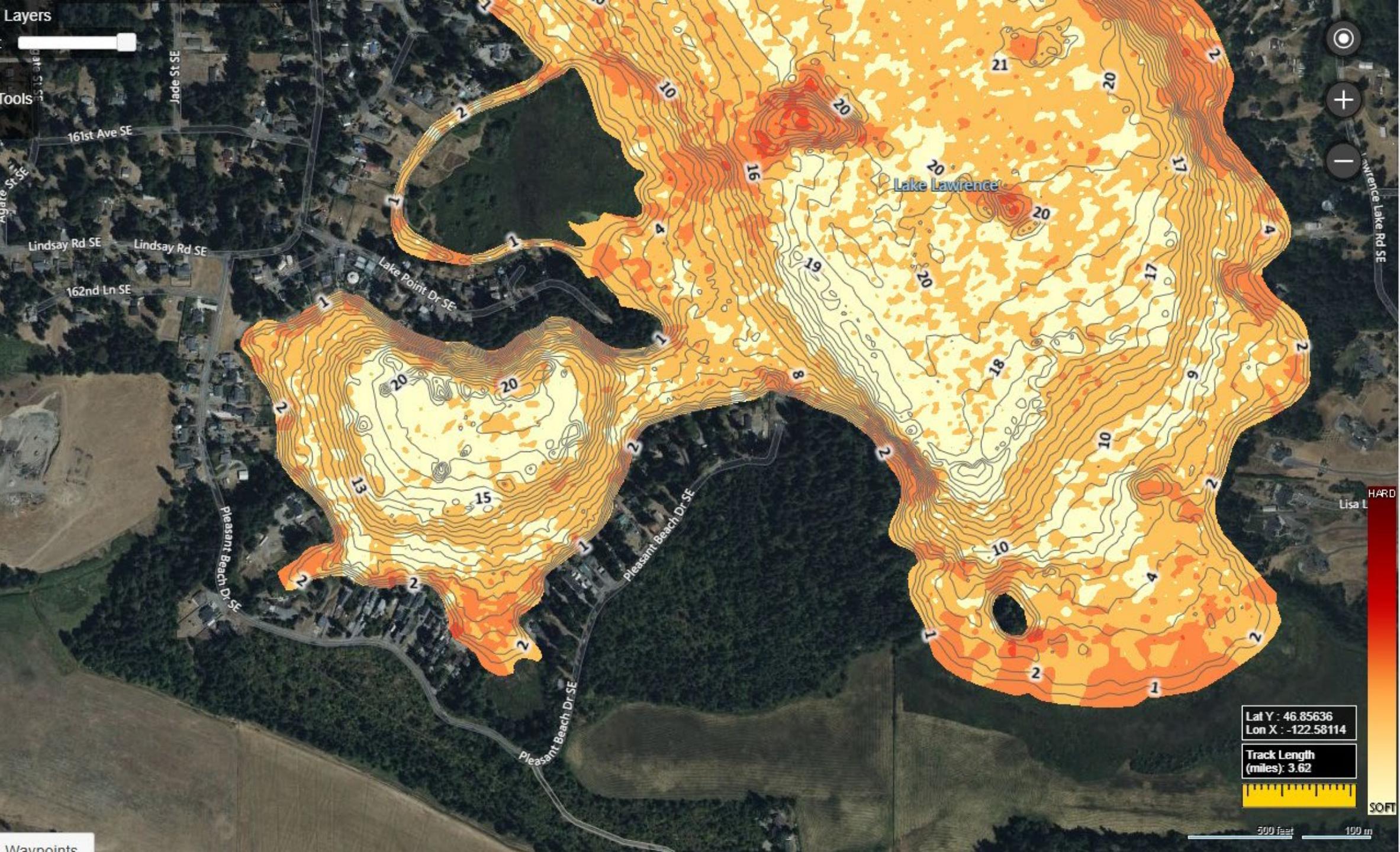
Title and Tags Tools

Data Offset

Trip  
Reprocessing

Merge Trips

Export Options



# Costs

- Largely a function of specifications. We generally use 20:1 ratio
- Aluminum Sulfate current WA cost about \$1.80 per gallon, freight to Olympia area \$0.60 per gallon in truck load
- Our application costs historically lower than major competitors
- No significant mobilization charges because of location



# Monitoring Requirements

Table 5: Monitoring Schedule Summary

Frequency	pH (in situ)	Temperature, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen, % Saturation	Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	Total alkalinity (mg/L)	Dissolved organic carbon (mg/L)	Total aluminum (μg/L)	Sulfate (mg/L)
Pre-treatment (3 samples within 3 months of treatment)	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	Added	Added
During	✓	Added	—	—	—	—	—
Day after treatment	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	✓	Added
2 weeks	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	✓	Added
1 month	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	✓	Added
2 months	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	✓	Added
6 months	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	✓	Added
9 months	✓	Added	✓	Added	✓	✓	Added
12 months	*	*	*	*	*	*	

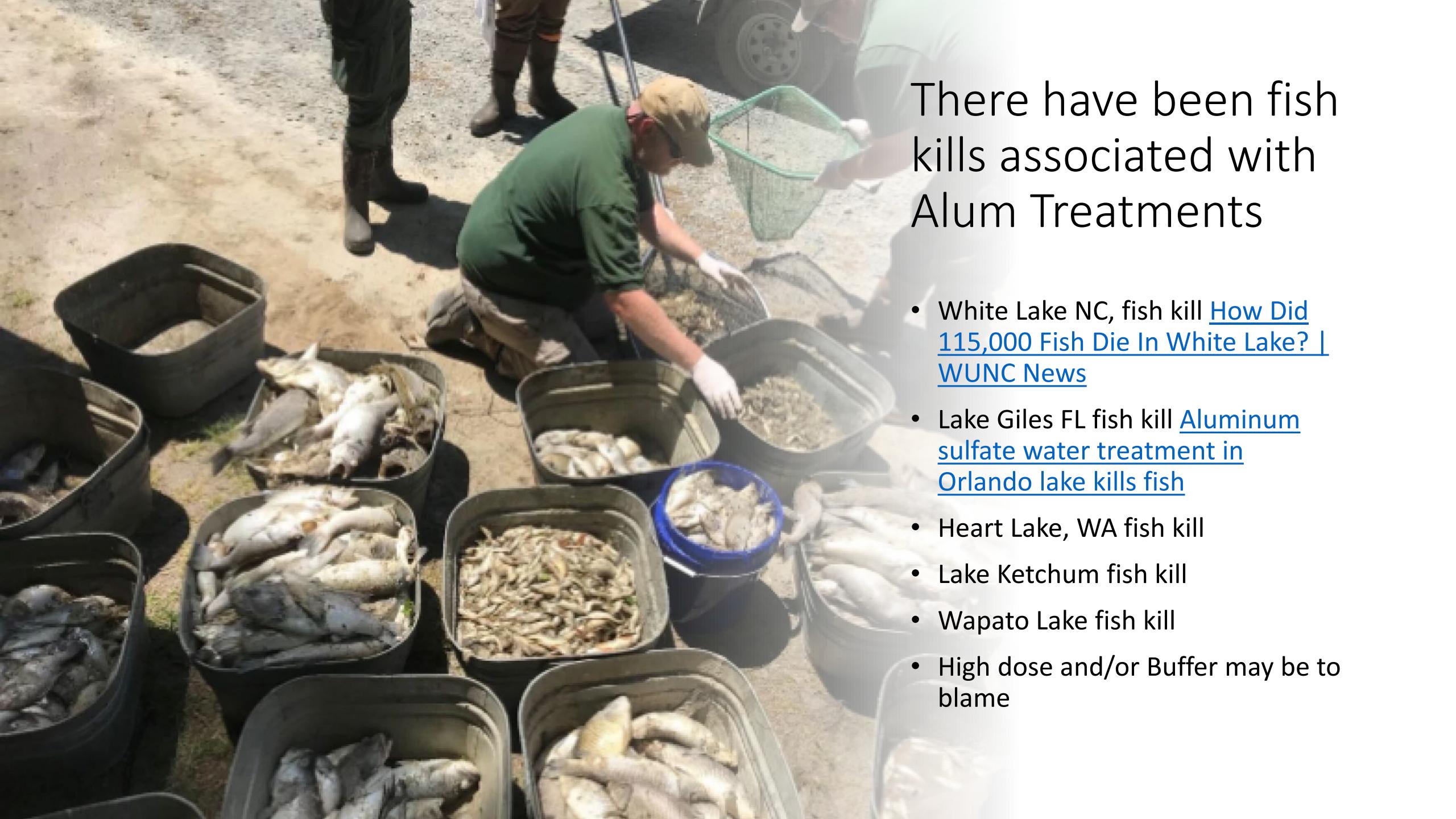
- New NPDES permit goes into effect this March
- Red are added parameters, sulfate toxicity to aquatic plants was discovered on Waughop Lake Treatment by University of Puget Sound

# pH monitoring is critical during application

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- We deploy buoys with sensors
- Sensors are connected to VuLink, a cellular system to “the Cloud”
- Viewable on laptops and smart phones in the field and in our treatment boats
- Can set alarms that broadcast immediately if conditions drop outside optimum levels.



A photograph showing a person in a green shirt and cap, wearing white gloves, handling fish carcasses in a field. There are several large metal tubs filled with fish, and a green plastic bin in the background. The person is wearing dark pants and boots. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

There have been fish kills associated with Alum Treatments

- White Lake NC, fish kill [How Did 115,000 Fish Die In White Lake? | WUNC News](#)
- Lake Giles FL fish kill [Aluminum sulfate water treatment in Orlando lake kills fish](#)
- Heart Lake, WA fish kill
- Lake Ketchum fish kill
- Wapato Lake fish kill
- High dose and/or Buffer may be to blame

Contact

[tmcnabb@aquatechnex.com](mailto:tmcnabb@aquatechnex.com)

and 360-201-2612

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- Aquatechnex is based in Centralia, mobilization charges are minimal compared to national groups
- We have 10 highly treated certified applicators in Washington
- We have consistently been the most cost effective Alum applicator in competitive situations
- We are expert in the use of other phosphorus mitigation technologies as well

