

A Vision for Citizen Science at EPA







Information to Action Strengthening EPA Citizen Science

National Adviso and Technology

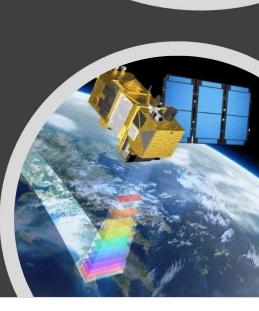
December 2016

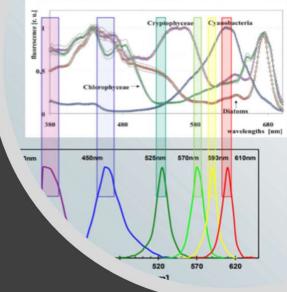




## **Great** Lakes Monitoring The Next Generation..

**Robots, Sensors, Satellites and You!** 





# But first let's look back...

### Early Studies of Lake Superior Nutrients, Productivity and Currents 1956-1961

Lake Superior investigations 1950s

In 1956 the Minnesota Department of Health asked the School of Public Health of the University of Minnesota to conduct a limnological study of Lake Superior.

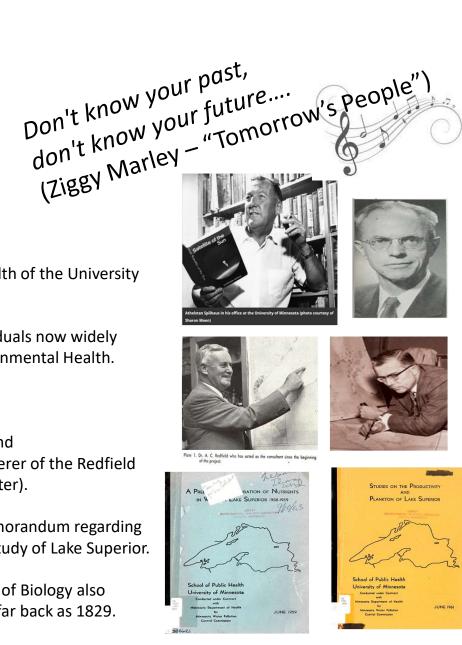
The original planning of the project was conducted in conference with individuals now widely recognized as early leaders in the fields Limnology, Oceanography and Environmental Health. These included:

Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus, founder of SeaGrant,

Dr. Gaylord W. Anderson, the first dean of the UMN Scool of Public Health, and Dr. Alfred C. Redfield, of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the discoverer of the Redfield ratio (which describes the ratio between nutrients in plankton and ocean water).

Dr. Redfield acted as a consultant to the project and provided a detailed memorandum regarding the development of a limnological institution for the continuous long-term study of Lake Superior.

Dr. Theron O. Odlaug, founding member of the Unversity of MN Department of Biology also prepared a bibliography and abstracts of Great Lakes literature extending as far back as 1829.



UMD NEWS SERVICE July 28, 1960 RA 4-8801 Ext 210

-2-

Other properties of the lake were charted with oceanographic

instruments -- some of them resembling torpedos and other military

chemical content of the water was begun.

equipment. In 1958, a preliminary investigation, of nutrients or

DULUTH--The sketchy personality of Lake Superior is coming to light as a result of research by University of Minnesota scientists and their associates.

Working out of UMD's (University of Minnesota, Duluth) Lake Superior Research Station -- a converted fish hatchery on the Duluth shoreline -- they study the western portion of the lake right on its doorstep.

In the group are Dr. Theron O. Odlaug, head of biology at UMD and two UMD students from Duluth, John Odell and James Marshall.

Heading project work this fifth summer of the study is Hugh D. Putnam, research fellow in the University's School of Public Health, Minneapolis. Orlando R. Ruschmeyer, instructor in the School, has completed two years as chief and is again working with the group.

Limnological (fresh water) research was begun in 1956 by the School of Public Health, under contract with the Minnesota Department of Health for the state Water Pollution Control Commission.

First years of the project were spent studying surface currents and water temperatures of Lake Superior. Thousands of soda-like bottles

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#### School of Public Health University of Minnesota

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Conducted under Contract with Minnesota Department of Health for Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission USERA, West Building Headquarists Repository 1301 Constitution Avanue N.W. Room 3545 - Mailcode 34041

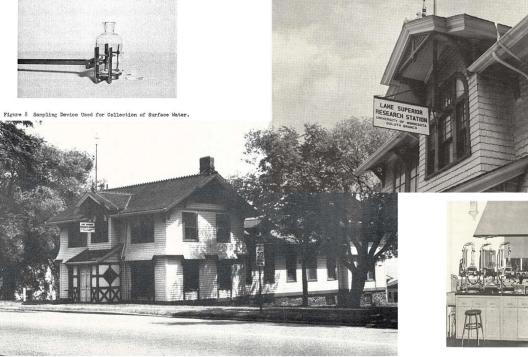
June 1957

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U.S. EPA MID-CONTINENT ECOLOGY DIVISION LIBRARY DULUTH, MN 55804

### Lake Superior Studies - (est. 1956)

- Released 1,000 bottle drifters (32% returned)
- Collected hundreds of bathythermograph profiles in July, August and Sept. along transects from Duluth to Grand Marais.
- Remodeled former fisheries building into Lake Superior Research
   Station



#### Water Movement and Temperatures of Western Lake Superior - 1957

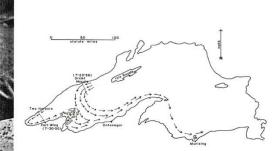
- Released 5,000 more bottle drifters over several months (27% returned).
- Acquired additional equipment including 7 bathythermographs (used to collect more than 300 temperature profiles along cross lake transects).
- Integrated bottle drifter data and temperature profiles • for Dynamic Height calculations for surface currents



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1112 MAYO MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

ACT CUT IN THE IN

OPEN THIS BOTTLE



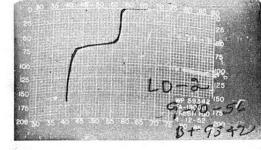


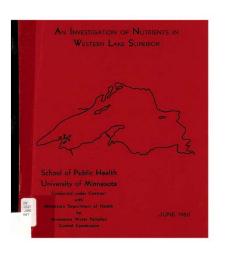
FIGURE I SURFACE CURRENTS IN WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR AS SUGGESTED BY BATHYTHERMOGRAPH AND DRIFT BOTTLE STUDIES

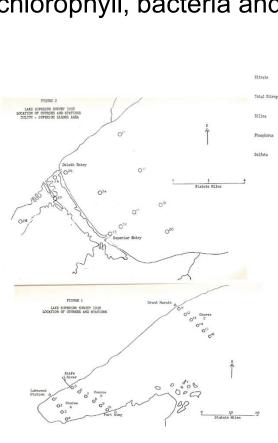
Figure 16. Bathythermograph record in the deeper water off Lakewood Water Station indicates a well defined thermocline on September 10, 1956.

Figure 2 Completed Drift Bottles as Used for Lake Superior Studies.

### An Investigation of Nutrients in Western Lake Superior - 1960

- Sampled 11 tributaries for nutrients and WQ
- Sampled along transects from Duluth to Grand Marais
- Also sampled for turbidity, chlorophyll, bacteria and radioactivity.





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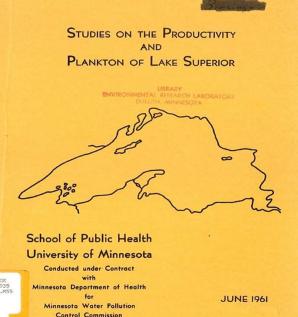
(discharge rates are in cubic feet per second)

### Studies on the Productivity and Plankton of Lake Superior 1961

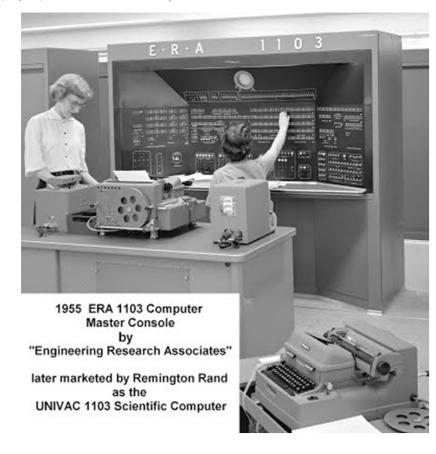
- Primary objectives of the program involved a preliminary investigation of the standing crop of plankton organisms
- An attempt to evaluate the primary production of the lake.
- Measurements pertaining to the chlorophyll content and photosynthetic activity of the phytoplankton community.

Secondary objectives included investigations of phenomena of concern:

- Fish net slime (diatom algae communities)
- Green Water near Silver Bay (possibly associated with taconite waste).



The university's 1103 electronic computer was used for calculating dynamic heights from the bathythermograph data



### Memorandum on the Limnology of Minnesota by Alfred C. Redfield

• Alfred C. Redfield, senior oceanographer of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, acted as a consultant and adviser for the length of the project and provided a detailed memo regarding the development of an institute at the University.

The staff of a first class institute of limnology should contain leaders with support for effective work in the following departments:

- Hydrography which deals with the physical movement of water and which include the general circulation, the action of waves as erosive agents, etc.
- Climatology and Meteorology which deal with the principal agencies responsible for supplying the natural water initially and modifying from time to time its behavior.
- Chemistry which provides the techniques of examining the qualities of water and tracing the sources of the components on which these qualities depend.
- 4. Geology which deals with the sedimentary deposits, their origin and behavior.
- 5. Biology which is concerned equally with the production and control of fish and other life, both desirable and undesirable, and including particularly the microbiology involved in contamination by sewage.

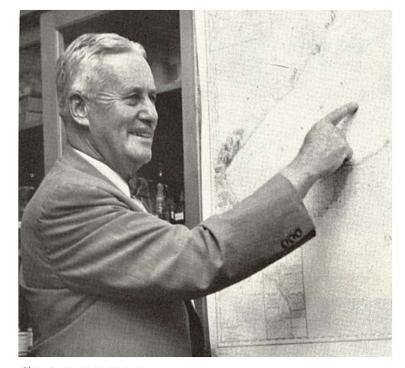
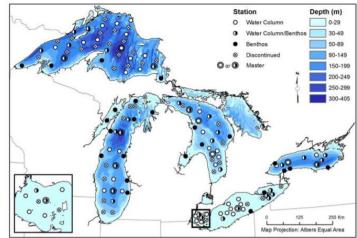


Plate 1. Dr. A. C. Redfield who has acted as the consultant since the beginning of the project.





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#### Commentary

A brief history of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office's water quality survey



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b GDIT and Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, 845 W. Taylor St., Chicago, IL 60607, USA

<sup>c</sup> U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604, USA

Fig. 2. Map of GLNPO water quality survey long-term monitoring stations from 1983-present. Inset shows stations in the western basin of Lake E

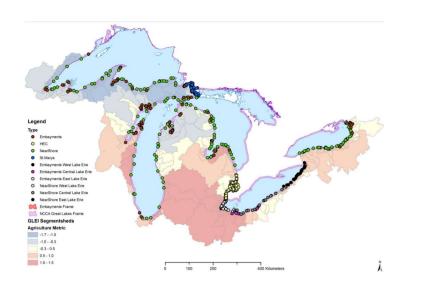
- "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) water quality survey (WQS) constitutes the longest-running, most extensive monitoring of water quality and the lower trophic level biota of the Laurentian Great Lakes and has been instrumental in tracking shifts in nutrients and the lower food web over the past several decades."
- "The initial impetus for regular monitoring of the Great Lakes was provided by the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) which asked the parties to develop monitoring and surveillance programs to ensure compliance with the goals of the agreement."
- "The resulting monitoring plan, eventually known as the Great Lakes International Surveillance Plan (GLISP), envisioned a nine-year rotation of intensive surveys of the five lakes. A broadening of the scope of the GLWQA in 1978 and the completion of the first nine-year cycle of sampling, "Winter surveys were also conducted, by helicopter, to prompted reappraisals of the GLISP. During this pause, and using knowledge gained from GLISP, GLNPO initiated an annual WQS with the narrower focus of tracking water quality changes and "The WQS is unique in that all five lakes are sampled by one enable parameter estimates relatively free from principal laboratory for each parameter group, and road managing and understand
- Winter surveys were apply and tributary loadings. "Winter surveys were apply apply and tributary loadings. "Winter surveys were apply apply apply and tributary loadings. "Winter surveys were apply apply apply and tributary loadings. "Winter surveys were apply apply apply apply apply apply apply and tributary loadings. "Winter surveys were apply appl

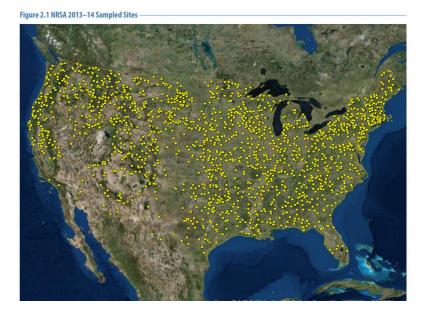


# Other Great Lakes Monitoring

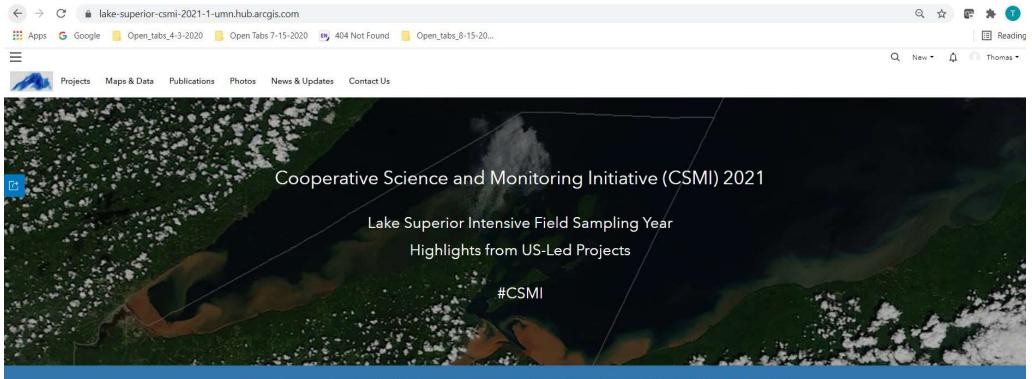
https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys

- EPA OW National Aquatic Resource Surveys
  - National Coastal Condition Assessment (Great Lakes)
  - National Wetland Condition Assessment (Midwest), National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA), National Lakes Assessment
- University efforts, and more..





## Other Great Lakes Monitoring (cont.)



This online space is intended for planning, communication, and coordination of U.S.-led CSMI efforts in Lake Superior for 2021 for scientists, managers, and the public. Here you will find information on the types and locations of science and monitoring, current progress, and upcoming materials and events. You will also find information on what CSMI is and why it is so important for the Great Lakes.

What is CSMI?

The Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI) is an initiative of the Science Annex of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. CSMI focuses on one of the Great Lakes each year with priorities set under LAMPs (Lakewide Action Management Plans) for each lake. Every 5 years is an intensive sampling year, with the other 4 years

## Interagency Team



- NPS
- UMD (LLO and NRRI)
- EPA (ORD, GLTED, GLNPO)
- Northland College Burke Center
- WI- DNR
- USGS (UMid and UMESC)

- Lakehead University
- UW-Madison
- Purdue University Ohio Sea Grant

### Highlights from US-Led Lake Superior CSMI 2021 Projects

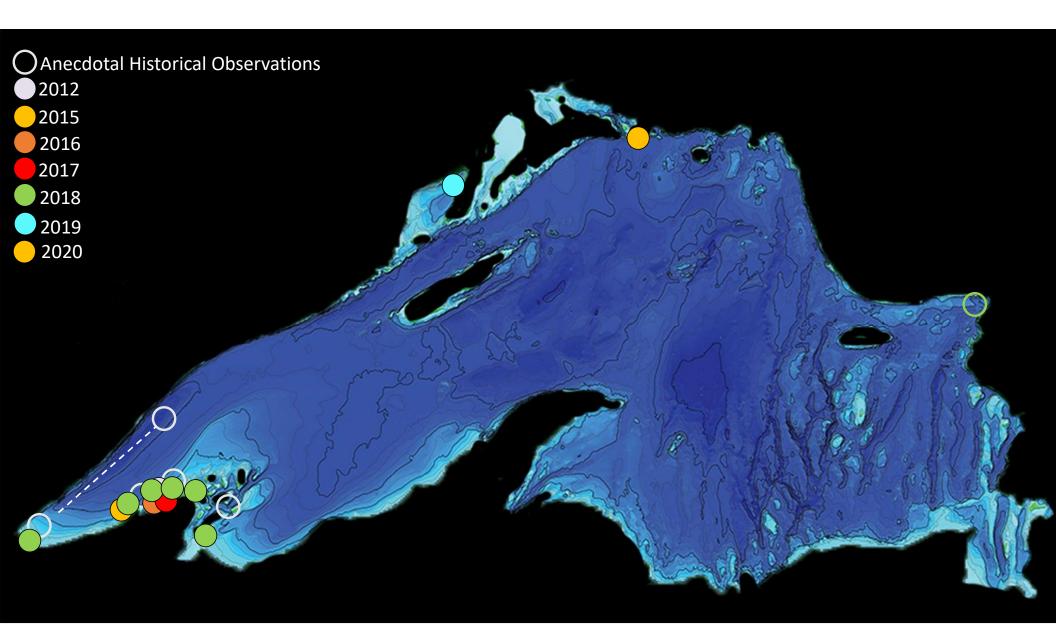
- Lake Superior Multi-Trophic Level Assessment
  - Lake-wide surveys for water quality including chemistry, benthos, and phytoplankton are a staple of CSMI and help understand the current health of Lake Superior and provide a longer-term record to observe changes over time.
- Food web Assessment
  - Describe the status and trend of major species across multiple trophic levels
- Lake Superior CSMI Lake-wide Benthos Survey
- Habitat Assessments
  - of species and their habitats both in Lake Superior and in the surrounding watershed.
- Estimating groundwater contributions to Lake Superior: Data assimilation and evaluation of baseflow patterns
- Effects of Water Level Fluctuations on Protecting Lake Superior's Coastal Wetlands
- Cyanobacterial Blooms and Monitoring
- Autonomous Underwater Glider Transects
- Autonomous Drifter Experiments
- South Shore (near shore)Water Quality Survey Continuous sensor tows
- Metabarcoding of Planktonic Microbes Characterize the microbial community through time via DNA metabarcoding
- Tributary Water Quality Sampling
- Phosphorus Cycling
- Wateshed Modeling Landscape management affecting South Shore stream function
- Remote Sensing Develop and calibrate algorithms and techniques for classifying HABs using *in situ* data from gliders, towed arrays, and sampling
- Citizen Science Employ citizen science for outreach, education and possibly early warnings of blooms

## Overview of Lake Superior cyanobacterial bloom findings to date

<u>Co-authors and Contributors</u>: Brenda Lafrancois, David VanderMeulen, Julie Van Stappen (NPS) Robert Sterner, Kaitlin Reinl, Sandra Brovold (UMD) Todd Miller (UWM) Michele Wheeler, Madeline Magee, Gina LaLiberte (WDNR)

Dawn Perkins (WSLH), Amanda Koch (WDHS) Matt Hudson, Matt Cooper (Northland College) Nathan Wilson (Lakehead University) Elizabeth LaPlante (EPA), Amy Thomas (Battelle)





## Lake Superior Blooms – South Shore Observations

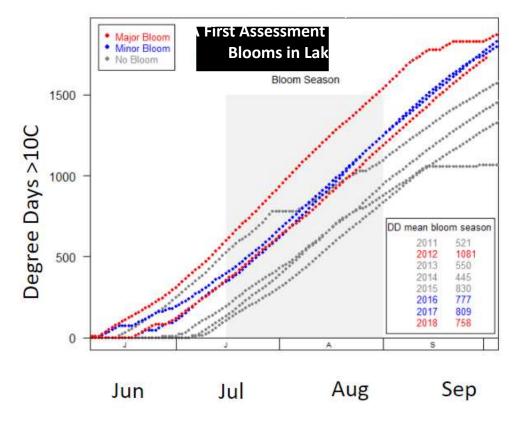


Brenda Lafrancois, NPS

### Lake Superior HABs Research – Bloom Drivers

- Biggest blooms happened in warm years
- Biggest blooms followed historic rainfall events (but lagged several weeks)





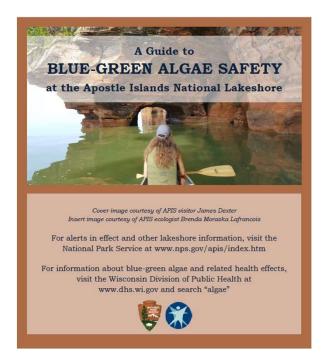
Brenda Lafrancois, NPS

# Bloom Monitoring and Response

Lake Superior Partnership "Algal Bloom Subgroup" developed after 2018 State of Lake Superior

### Focal areas

- Monitoring and research coordination
- Rapid response coordination, including points-of-contact lists and sampling kits
- Outreach/ed and citizen engagement



Brenda Lafrancois, NPS

## Tributary Monitoring – locations and parameters

Richard Keisling, Faith Fitzpatrick, Eric Dantoin, Anna Baker (USGS Upper Midwest Water Science Center) Becky Kreiling (USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center)

- Loads and Algal/cyanobacterial biomass monitoring
  - Streamflow
  - Total and Dissolved Phosphorus (TP, TDP, SRP)
  - NO3, NH3, TKN, dissolved TNK,
  - Suspended sediment concentration
  - Chlorophyll-a

### • Sediment nutrient cycling

- P sorption potential (EPCO)
- Sediment Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, and Total Carbon
- Sediment denitrification and nitrification
- Sediment exchangeable nutrients

### Siskiwit River

### **Bois Brule River**



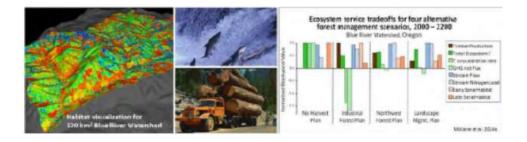
Photos from Eric Dantoin, USGS

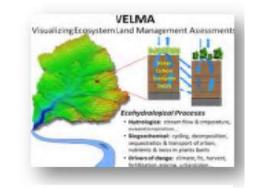
Photos from Wisconsin Trail Guide

# Landscape Management Model

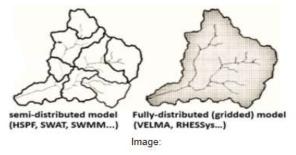
### What is VELMA?

VELMA predicts the effectiveness of alternative land use and land cover scenarios for protecting stream water quality, and also estimates potential ecosystem services co-benefits and tradeoffs.





Grid size is important



https://www.epa.gov/water-research/visualizing-ecosystem-land-management-assessments-velma-model-20

Participants: Chris Filstrup, Joel Hoffman, U-M grad student, Bob McKane, Jonathan Halama

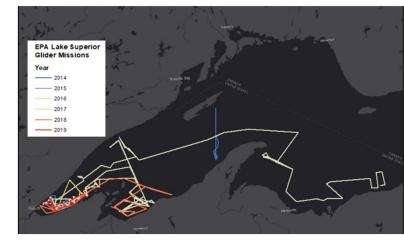
Slide content from Joel Hoffman

Autonomous underwater glider work Chasing plumes and blooms.... and storms

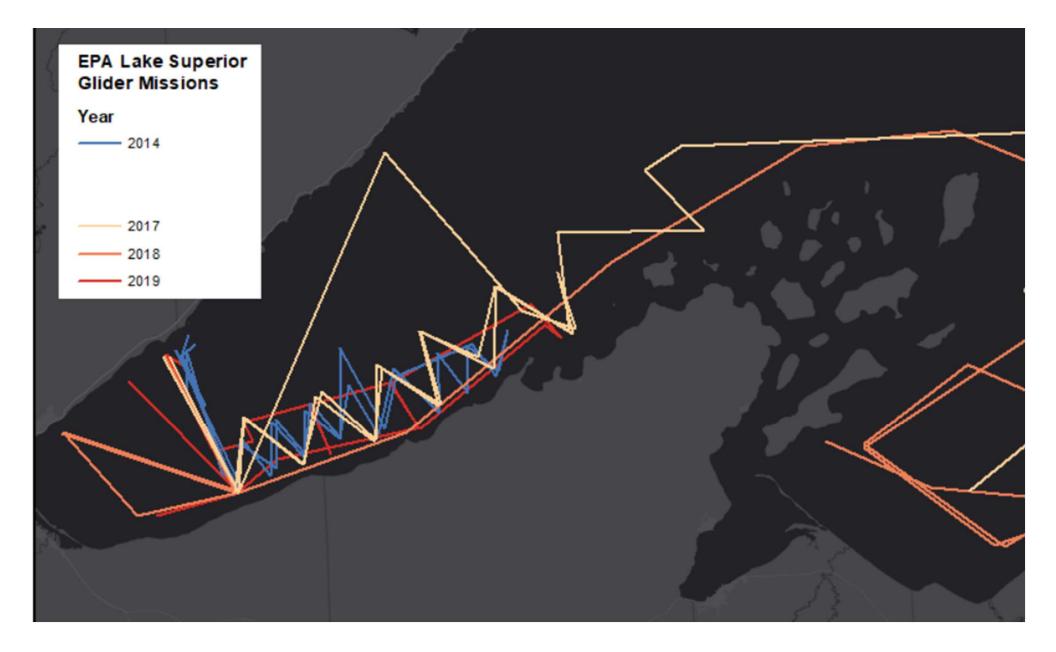
**Participants:** Paul Mckinney, Tom Hollenhorst, Aabir Banerji, Joel Hoffman & others

#### **Objective(s)**:

- Fly gliders along near shore to collect WQ info before, during and after blooms, also intersecting blooms to capture gradients of bloom intensity.
- Integrate with USGS continuous tow data, EPA Fluoroprobe data, and other WQ sampling efforts.
- Integrate with Remotely Sensed data also use satellite data to guide gliders to plumes and blooms for adaptive sampling.
- Incorporate past glider mission data collected along south shore





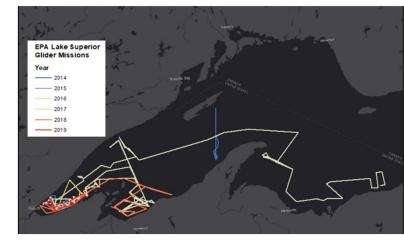


Autonomous underwater glider work Chasing plumes and blooms.... and storms

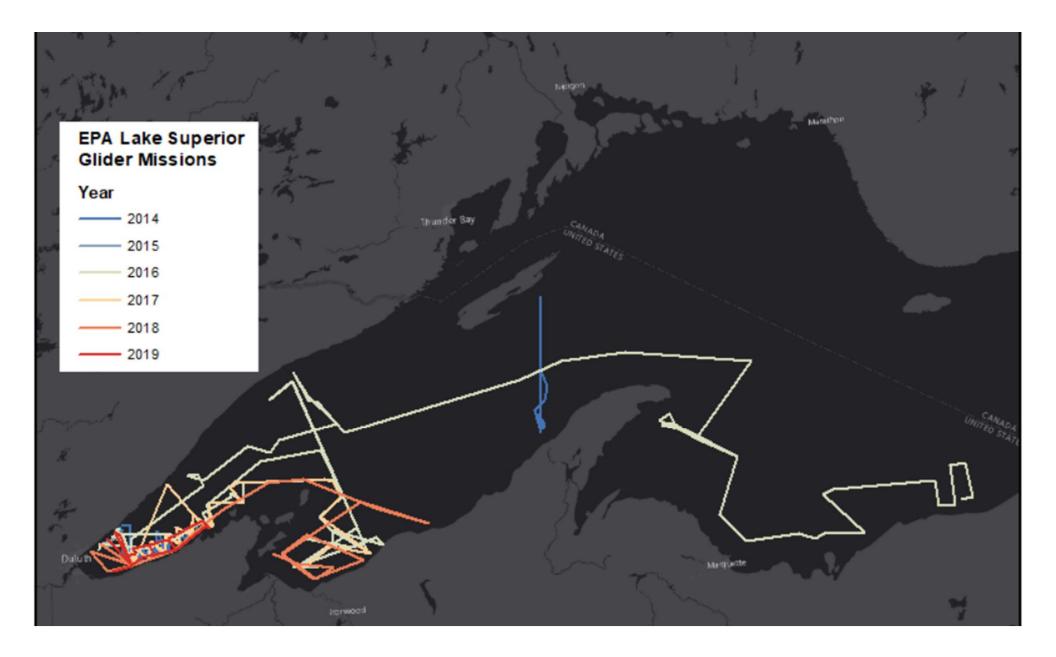
**Participants:** Paul Mckinney, Tom Hollenhorst, Aabir Banerji, Joel Hoffman & others

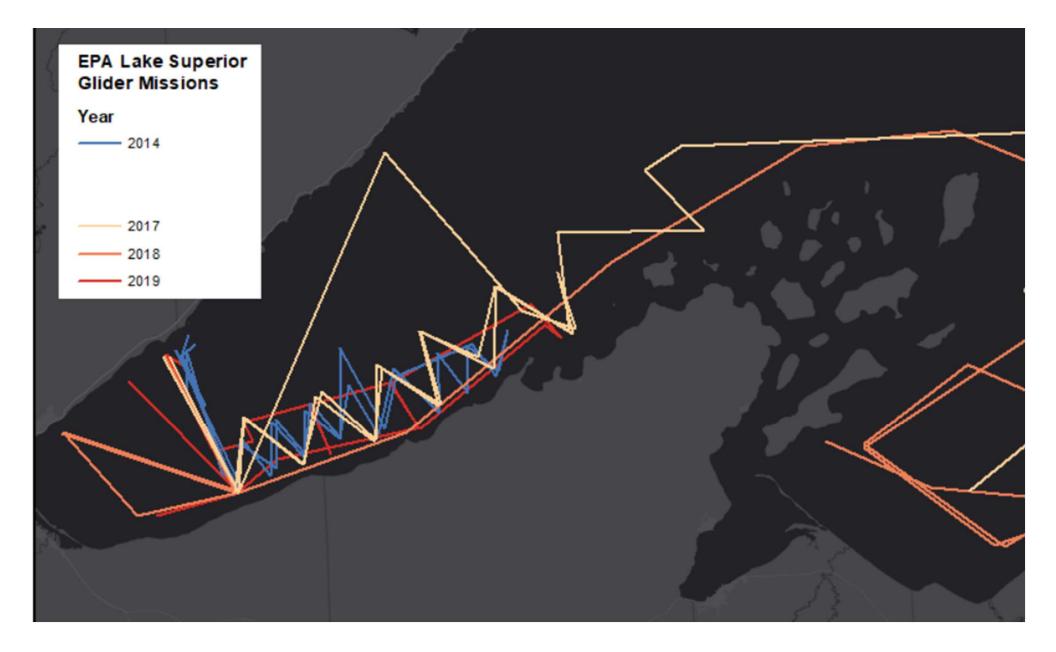
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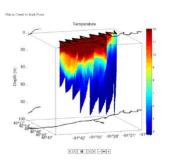


### Resources What we have:



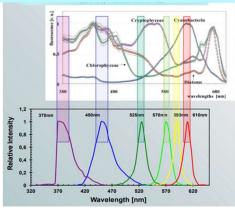
#### Slocum G2 Glider

- CTD (Conductivity, Temp, Depth)
- Dissolved Oxygen
- CDOM
- Fluorescence





Submersible Spectrofluorometer with Automatic Algae Class And Chlorophyll Analysis





#### New Glider (Slocum G3)

- Additional sensors: Phycocyanin & LISST sensor (Particle size, concentration)
- Hybrid propulsion
- Hope to "push" into and out from shallow nearshore
- Rechargeable batteries!

### What we need

- Clear skies for cloud free satellite imagery during missions
- Storm events during missions
- A little luck and synchronicity intercepting blooms and plumes
- Other coincident in situ data (WQ, CTD and Fluorometer profiles, tow data etc.
- Integrated & innovative data analyses...

### Q 🌐 🎆 ?

## Autonomous Drifter Experiments

#### Participants: Terry Brown, Tom Hollenhorst, Paul Mckinney, Jim Berrill

#### **Objective(s):**

Next

- Expand drifter development with Argos satellite telemetry.
- Drift along nearshore to better understand nutrient movements, tributary inputs/delivery. Drift with blooms and/or plumes
- Explore education and outreach opportunities' "follow the drifter".
- Inform help calibrate hydrodynamic modeling efforts.

## **Logistics**

Sampling Location(s): Yet to be determined...

Parameter(s): Conductivity, temperature, current velocity & direction

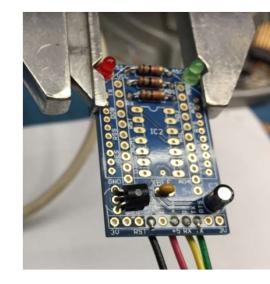
 Hopefully, new drifters can be deployed for multiple days & weeks at a time.

### **Resources**

- Currently 10 drifters with radio transmitters, for short deployments (6-12 hours) Base station software interface
- Working with Woods Hole group to acquire components for 10 with Argos satellite telemetry Need to design assemble and calibrate sensors. Longer deployments (days – weeks)

### <u>Needs</u>

- Young sharp eyes for drifter assembly soldering
- Interested teachers, educators





## PLOS ONE

G OPEN ACCESS 🔌 PEER-REVIEWED

RESEARCH ARTICLE

018-05-23

Ved May 23 20.

SAVE SYNC.

COND. TEMP.

CALC

BOAT

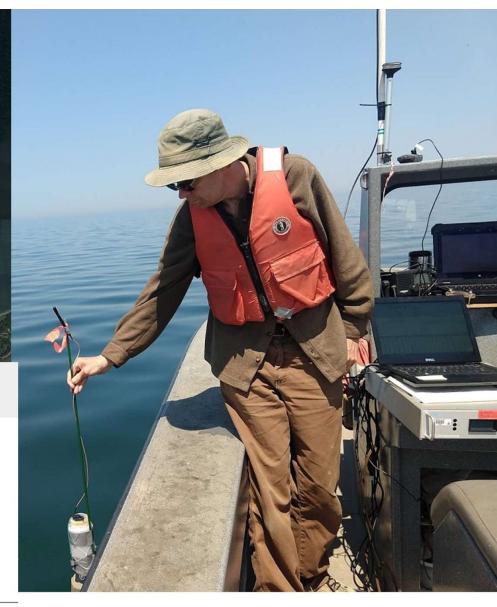
CLIF

### ••• Other Possibilities....

# Message in a bottle: Open source technology to track the movement of plastic pollution

Emily M. Duncan a, Alasdair Davies, Amy Brooks, Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, Brendan J. Godley, Jenna Jambeck, Taylor Maddalene, Imogen Napper, Sarah E. Nelms, Craig Rackstraw, Heather Koldewey

Published: December 2, 2020 • https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0242459



# Remote sensing

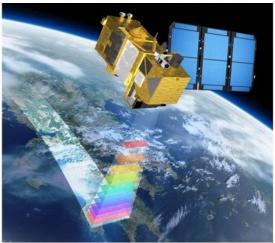
**Participants:** Tom Hollenhorst, Darryl Keith and others

#### **Objective(s):**

- Employ remotely sensed data to identify past and current algal bloom occurrences
- Also identify and characterize tributary plumes and sediment movements along the shore
- Synchronize in situ sampling with satellite orbits/schedules
- Develop and calibrate algorithms and techniques for classifying HABs using in situ data from gliders, towed arrays, and sampling (EPA ORD scientist).
- Employ remotely sensed data from satellites for adaptive in situ sampling & HABs tracking

New imagery CyAN App for Early Detection

https://www.epa.gov/water-research/cyanobacteria-assessment-network-cyan







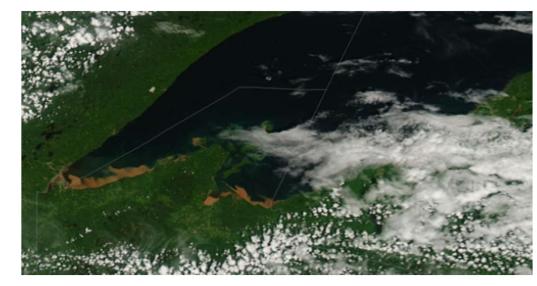
EPA's Cyanobacteria Assessment Network Application (CyAN) is a mobile app that provides users weekly satellite data to identify the concentration, location, and time series of cyanobacterial blooms in fresh and coastal waters of the United States. It is designed to inform decisions regarding recreational and drinking water safety by providing water quality managers with a user-friendly water reduces the complexities associated with accessing satellite data to allow fast and

## **Logistics**

Sampling Location(s): Across the area...

#### Parameter(s):

• Various satellite imagery available for the area (Landsat, Sentinel, MODIS, Digital Globe, etc.)



ake Superior //7/2020 (JD 189)

#### NOAA CoastWatch Great Lakes

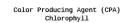
n Color

#### Color Producing Agents (CPAs) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

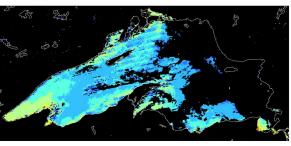
· Home · GLSEA · MODIS · Ocean Color · In-Situ · Statistics ·

cing Agents (Experimental)

Superior	Michigan	Huron	Erie	Ontario		
<u>Chlorophyll</u>	Chlorophyll	Chlorophyll	Chlorophyll	Chlorophyll		
Dissolved Organic Carbon						
Colored Dissolved Organic Matter absorption						
Suspended Minerals						
KD490	<u>KD490</u>	<u>KD490</u>	<u>KD490</u>	<u>KD490</u>		
<u>KDpar</u>	<u>KDpar</u>	<u>KDpar</u>	<u>KDpar</u>	<u>KDpar</u>		
Photic Zone Depth						



MODIS on 19 June 2018 – UW Madison CIMSS



h1 (ug/L)
20+
15 - 20
8.0 - 15
4.0 - 8.0
2.0 - 4.0
1.5 - 2.0
1.0 - 1.5
0.5 - 1.0
< 0.5</pre>

# Citizen Science – CyanoScope Kits, Bloomwatch

**Participants:** Tom Hollenhorst, Paul Mckinney, Aabir Banerji, Nathan Wilson (LakeHead University), Hilary Snook, others...

#### **Objective(s):**

- Employ citizen science for outreach, education and possibly early warnings of blooms
- Deploy ~ 4 CyanoScope kits along the south shore with interested citizen scientist

Provide training via 1-2 workshops and various demos

 Also engage citizen scientist with new updated bloomwatch app and other notification mechanisms.



# Mapping cyanobacteria one slide at a Time



## **Logistics**

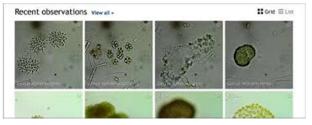
Sampling Location(s): Yet to be determined...

#### Parameter(s):

• images of algae collected along the shore uploaded to iNaturalist, Bloomwatch

## <u>Resources</u>

- ~ four CyanoScope algae monitoring kits
- Interested teachers & educators



### **Needs**

• More interested teachers & educators, citizen scientist



### 3. Report what you found

#### Document blooms with the app

1) use bloomWatch app to take good photos of potential blooms, 2) submit your photos to the project, 3) send info to the relevant state agency



# Genetic Studies – Nearshore and Open Lake

### **Metabarcoding of Planktonic Microbes**

**Participants:** Aabir Banerji, US EPA GLTED; Carlie LaLone, US EPA GLTED; Erik Pilgrim, US EPA WECD; Sara Okum, US EPA WECD {plus an ORISE person}.

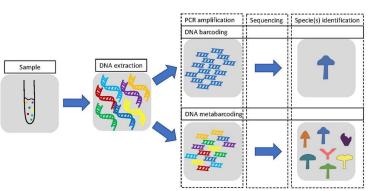
#### Objective(s):

- 1. Characterize the microbial community through time via DNA metabarcoding (including cyanobacteria, other bacteria, eukaryotic algae, protozoa, and tiny arthropods).
- 2. Identify toxic cyanobacteria, algae, or mixotrophic protozoa that form HABs, as well as organisms that promote, inhibit, dissipate, or perpetuate HABs and organisms that benefit suffer from them.
- 3. Collaborate how could microbial community data be of use to you?

Related ongoing work by Cody Sheik (LLO) and Euan Reavie (NRRI)

- Seasonal and spatial distribution of microbial phytoplankton
- Functional diversity of microbial communities and individual genomes
- Expression patterns of key metabolic genes

Slide content from Aabir Banerji and Cody Sheik



# Historical Analysis

 Participants – Bob Sterner (UMD/LLO), Hillary Dougan (NECASC), Rob Mooney (UW-Madison) and others



- Paleo-limnological Historical Analysis
  - Sediment cores for historical nutrient and sediment loading and cyanobacterial history
  - Lake Superior and inland headwaters lake
- Remote Sensing Study
  - Looking at recent changes in water clarity, trophic status, and bloom occurrence



# Nearshore Monitoring and Experimental work

- Participants: Matt Hudson, Northland College Burke Center, and others
- Near shore water quality and sonde profiles
  - Collaborating with UMD on 5 trips at 15 locations
  - Extending CSMI nearshore monitoring to entire WI Lake Superior coast
- Chequamegon Bay water quality monitoring and experimental work
  - Exploring the risk of blooms in Chequamegon Bay
    - Based on experimental approach used by Kate Reinl and the Sterner Lab



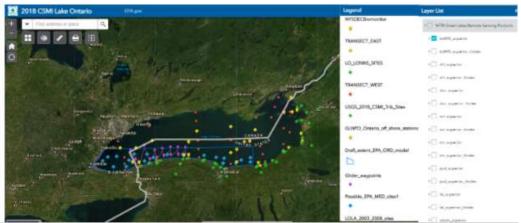
Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater ... northland.edu



# Data Synthesis and Integration

#### Objective(s):

- Develop a platform for data integration, synthesis and sharing (across agencies & institutions)
- From the above also incorporate other additional relevant information Weather, wind, waves (real time buoy data) Surface water temp (from satellites) Accumulated growing degree days
- Use for planning & adaptive sampling
- Data visualization



• Entire team will be involved –

#### Welcome

History

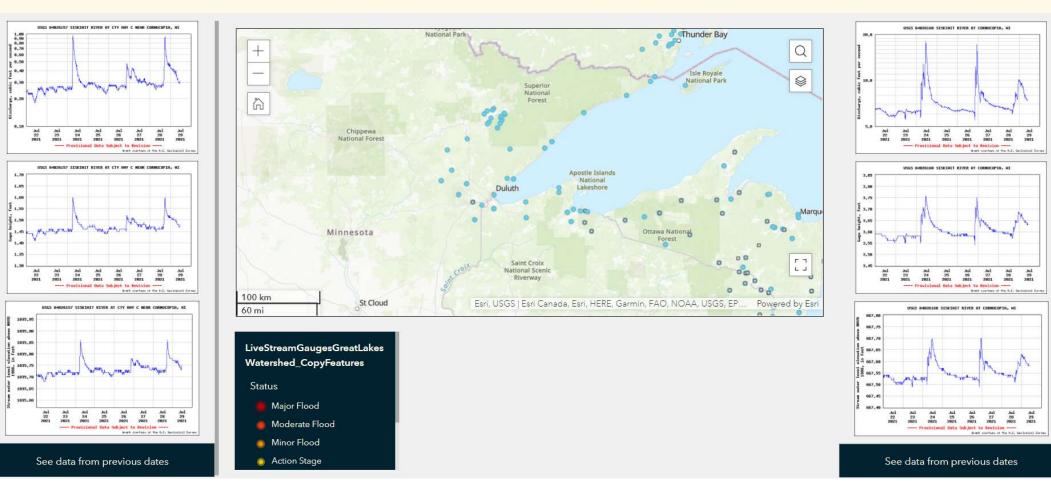
Siskiwit Bay Story Map

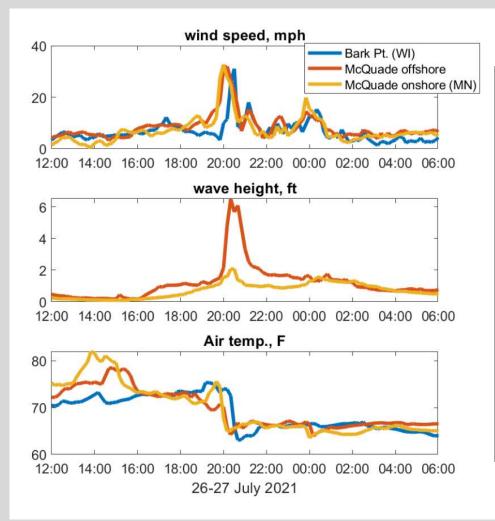
#### Siskiwit River Live Stream Gauges Sa

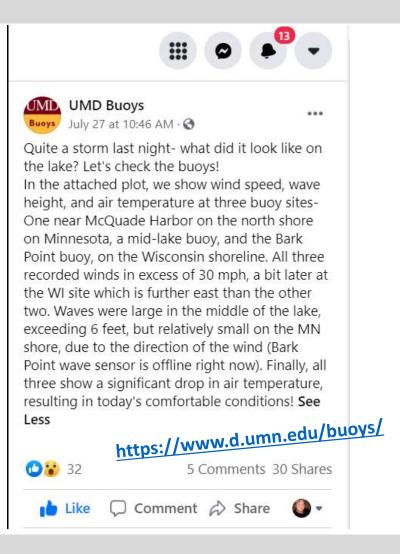
Satellite Imagery Static

#### Satellite Imagery - test

Environmental Justice







#### 10 Broad Stressors in the IJC Science Advisory Report

- Toxic point source pollutants and contaminated sediments
- Invasive species
- Nonpoint pollutants (including agricultural, forestry, and urban sources)
- Altered water level fluxes (often as climate change impacts)
- Climate change

- Shoreline hardening and alterations, aquatic habitat alterations
- Coastal and urban development
- Natural resource use (including water withdrawals)
- Nuisance algae (harmful algal blooms, *Cladophora*)
- Dams and barriers

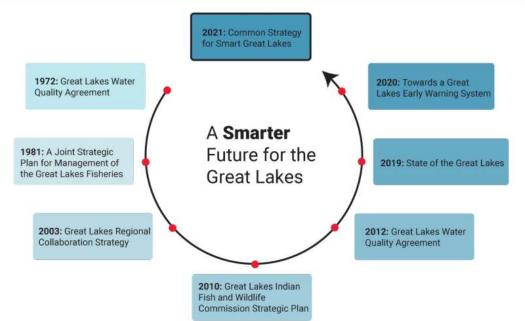


Figure 1: Over the past five decades, several key documents have been published to articulate solutions to emerging Great Lakes challenges, from natural resource management to economic development to climate change.

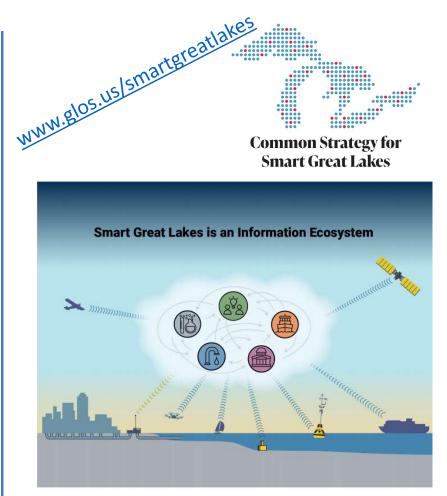


Figure 2: The Smart Great Lakes information ecosystem includes many components. Science, research, water treatment facilities, observation instruments, all levels of government, industry, innovative ideas and people are only the beginning of what is possible.

