

Our Lakes are Under Attack

Invasive milfoil and algal blooms are now in our watershed, creating a crisis on Androscoggin Lake and threatening the whole 30 Mile River Watershed.

September 2020

A volunteer plant patroller found a suspicious plant in Androscoggin Lake. DNA testing confirmed it was variable watermilfoil, an invasive species.



This was the first time an invasive aquatic plant had been found anywhere in the 30 Mile River Watershed. It poses a serious threat to not only Androscoggin, but to other water bodies.

July 2021

The Maine DEP and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife ordered a temporary **Surface Use Restriction** in the cove, closing the infested area.

September 2021

The lake officially reached **lake-wide algal bloom** status (clarity <2 meters depth at the deepest point in the lake) as defined by the Maine DEP, and that continued through October.

October 2021

Milfoil work ended early when the bloom turned the lake green and plants were no longer visible.

October 2020

30 Mile immediately went to work with the Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation (ALIC), the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) to **organize a rapid response to the milfoil**. The team conducted several days of surveys and the first round of milfoil removal.

May 2021

30 Mile began **intensively surveying the infested area** (4-5 days/week), marking each individual milfoil plant found. Every 2-3 weeks, DEP staff joined us to carefully **remove the plants by hand**.

August 2021

Water clarity in the lake had declined and **localized blooms of cyanobacteria** (formerly known as blue-green algae) were observed in areas near shorelines and in coves.

Volunteers from ALIC's "Eyes on the Water" team, along with 30 Mile staff, **completed a full lake invasive aquatic plant survey**, surveying all the near shore areas where aquatic plants are likely to grow. No other invasive milfoil was found.

December 2021

Water clarity in the lake had improved only slightly (2.7 M).

30 Mile takes action

In response to this crisis, in 2022 we will be working with our partners to:

- ▶ Fight the invasive milfoil infestation with extensive monitoring and removal.
- ▶ Conduct an in-depth watershed survey to identify threats to water quality.
- ▶ Increase water quality monitoring to collect extensive data to document changes and trends over time.
- ▶ Monitor phosphorus levels in the tributaries and river draining into the lake.
- ▶ Develop a Watershed Protection Plan for long-term watershed management.
- ▶ Support landowners in reducing polluted runoff by providing technical assistance and resources.
- ▶ Apply for grants to address the largest threats on the lake.



Save Androscoggin - Campaign for a Healthy Lake

To fight these threats and restore the health of the lake, we must act now! 30 Mile has teamed up with the Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation (ALIC) to raise \$150K to fund a three-year intensive effort to address these urgent needs.



I love this lake more than anything. I have been coming here every year of my life for 67 years. It tears at my heartstrings that our lake could decline to a place that is overtaken with invasives or plagued by recurring algal blooms."

- Buddy Cummings, ALIC President & 30 Mile Board Member



Threats to Androscoggin Lake threaten the whole 30 Mile River Watershed.