# Utah Lake Monitoring: overview for the UT-DWQ Water Quality Council 

Lake Ecology Laboratory
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## Overarching Questions:

- How do multiyear droughts influence the Utah Lake ecosystem?
- How do invasive fish species affect the food web in Utah Lake?
- How has the carp removal effort influenced Utah Lake, and what role has drought played in these dynamics?






RDA Axis 1 (51.9\%)


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Sept 2011 - Sept 2014
$\mathrm{N}=64$ site/dates

RDA Axis 1 (51.9\%)


RDA Axis 1 (51.9\%)


June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth ( $m$ )


June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)


June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth ( $m$ )
0.4 - Critical EPA thresholds:

- $0.1 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{l}$


June 2002 - Nov 2014
N = 245 site/dates

## Total Phosphates > 0.1 mg/l



June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)

## Total Phosphates > 0.1 mg/l



June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)

## Total Phosphates > 0.1 mg/l



June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)

## Total Phosphates > 0.1 mg/l



June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)



June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)


June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)

〕 Total Phosphates > 0.025 mg/l


June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)


June 2002 - Nov 2014
$\mathrm{N}=245$ site/dates

Site depth (m)



## Do changes in total phosphate and depth influence zooplankton, specifically, Daphnia body size?

"If herbivorous zooplankton are in competition for limiting resources, then falling TP levels should favour larger herbivores (Gliwicz 1990), given their greater starvation resistance. Consistent with this hypothesis, TP is negatively correlated with mean cladoceran body size." Yan et al. (2008)



Sept 2011 - Sept 2014
66 site/dates
3711 lengths

$90^{\text {th }}$ percentile $=12 \%$ decrease
Sept 2011 - Sept 2014


Sept 2011 - Sept 2014
66 site/dates
3711 lengths

$90^{\text {th }}$ percentile $=16 \%$ increase
Sept 2011 - Sept 2014



Sept 2011 - Sept 2014
$\mathrm{N}=64$ site/dates

RDA Axis 1 (51.9\%)
$90^{\text {th }}$ percentile $=12 \%$ decrease
Sept 2011 - Sept 2014



Yan et al. 2008 CJFAS: Zooplankton in Canadian Shield Lakes

## Summary:

- The zooplankton community shifts toward smaller taxa as total phosphates increase and as depths decrease
- Maximum Daphnia (optimal fish food) body size decreases as total phosphates increase and as depths decrease
- Suggesting that fish food decreases in abundance and quality as total phosphates increase and as depths decrease


## Next steps:

- Investigate phytoplankton dynamics with an emphasis on cyanobacteria
- Test whether (and if so, how) carp removal may influence water quality, phytoplankton, and zooplankton dynamics


## Questions / comments?

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## Zooplankton Sampling Locations <br> Legend

- UDWQ Sampling Sites

USU Limnology Sampling sites SITE, HABITAT
1E, Littoral

1E, Pelagic 1W, Littoral | The purpose of this map is to illustrate |
| :---: |
| the variation of the zooplankton sampling |
| sites, of the efforts made by Utah State |
| University (USU) and the Utah Division of |
| Water Quality (UDWQ), at Utah Lake in Utah. |







Sept 2011 - Sept 2014


Sept 2011 - Sept 2014





