

# E-Newsletter December 2021

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## From The President- Sylvia Soeth

### **Happy Holidays !**

We know by the weather it's winter! Lake people are anxious to ice fish or, maybe they're down south where it's warm. We can complain about the ice, snow or temperature, but you can't fight Mother Nature; she always wins.





The COLA Board had high hopes COVID would be gone so we could meet with members, but it wasn't to be, except for the Annual Meeting in August. That was a success and it was so good to be together again. Meanwhile, COLA continues to function. In spite of low water levels, most water samples were taken into RMB Labs. Thank you to each lake's water tester who got sampling done, COLA's Jeff Vansteenburgh's organization, and John Kruse who puts the data together. Through this newsletter the lake's data is available to members. The monthly newsletter is full of good information to keep members up to date.

Our wish for you is a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy 2022 so we can be together to “love our lakes”.

**Joy and peace.**

**Sylvia Soeth OTC COLA President**

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Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
First Silver 56-0302-01 201	2012	21.6	6.2	10.3	46.4
	2013	19.0	5.4	10.9	45.2
	2014	17.3	4.0	10.5	44.3
	2015	20.6	5.2	12.2	44.8
	2016	23.0	4.5	9.7	45.8
	2017	17.4	4.2	11.4	42.8
	2018	13.8	3.4	10.8	41.8
	2019	15.0	4.2	12.9	42.0
	2020	17.6	7.1	10.4	45.4
	2021	14.2	3.4	12.9	41.4
First Silver 56-0302-01 201 Total		18.0	4.8	11.2	44.0
					

## **2021 Water Quality Analysis E-Reports Are Published!**

The OTC COLA water quality sampling and analysis program has provided valuable data to lake property owners for over 20 years. 49 OTC COLA Members participated in the program. 60 Otter Tail County lakes were included in the 2021 program covering over 70% of Otter Tail County lake acreage. 136 volunteers from the lakes were an important component of the program collecting samples from 68 sites and ensuring that the samples were delivered to RMB Laboratories (RMB) in Detroit Lakes, MN. New features have been added for the 2021 reports.

**[MORE](#)**

**[Water Quality Analysis Reports 2021](#)**

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## **2022 Ag-Urban Partnership Forum On Water Quality**

### **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

**9:00 a.m. – Noon | Webex webinar**

**What:** An annual conversation on the ways that agriculture and urban partners are working together to improve water quality around Minnesota. This builds off the [inaugural event](#) in 2019 that sparked new partnerships in the Minnesota River Basin, and explores ways to keep the conversation – and the partnerships – going, both within and beyond this basin. A [second forum](#) was held virtually in 2020 where discussions continued on ways to work together to protect Minnesota waters, including water quality trading between point and non-point sources.

**Who should attend:** Ag and urban partners looking for ideas and information on how to develop and strengthen their relationships for working together to improve the water quality of Minnesota lakes and streams. These partners include elected officials, municipal employees, producers, Tribal leaders, commodity groups, watershed professionals, advocacy groups, lake associations and private citizens.

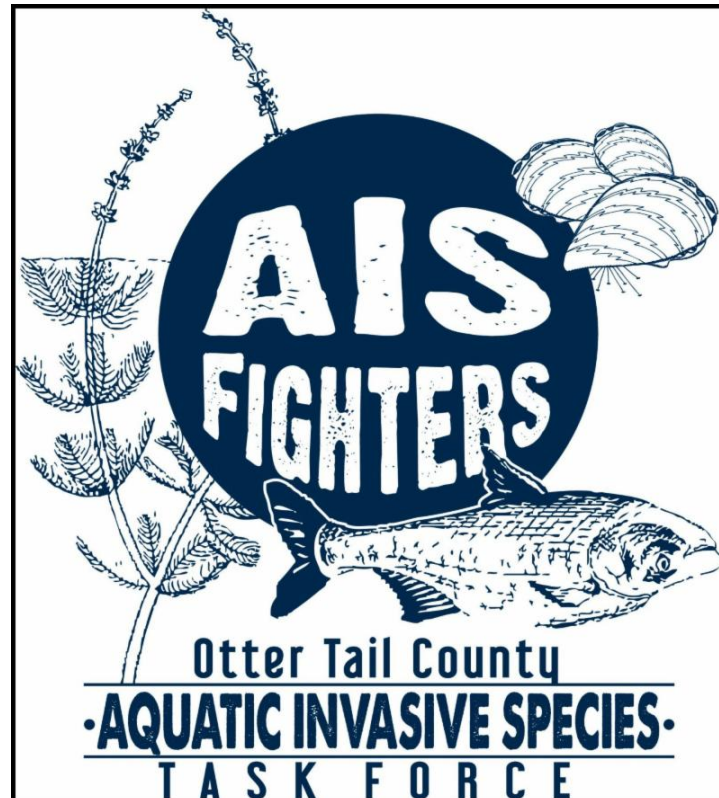
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**OTTER TAIL**  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA



### **AIS Task Force Update- December 2021**

Merry Christmas! Long cold nights tell us winter is here in Otter Tail County. A few updates:

I am preparing Otter Tail County's 2021 AIS Prevention Program Summary. It provides an overview of our activities through the year; ranging from our Watercraft Inspection Program (over 12,000 watercraft inspected) to our cooperative bait bag project (50,000 bait bags distributed to bait shops across the county), the Governor's Fishing Opener, the Rinse Station Pilot at Miller Park, and more. Watch this newsletter and the County website in January when the summary is complete.

Meanwhile, preparations begin for the 2022 season. We are coordinating with our advertising partners for our 2022 education and awareness campaign, contacting inspectors about returning for the season, planning additional watercraft rinse stations, and more. That's all for now! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



If you have suggestions or recommendations do not hesitate to reach out to a Task Force Member or to the AIS Specialist at 218-998-8113. Contact information is available at the Otter Tail County Website.

<https://ottertailcountymn.us/departments/aquatic-invasive-species/>

**[Spencer McGrew](#), AIS Specialist**

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### **Polar Plunge For Special Olympics**

The Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Minnesota is back in Otter Tail County for the third year in a row! The Otter Tail Plunge raised over \$186,080 in its 2-year history. You can join the other plungers, like our very own Scott Backstrom, already signed up for Saturday, February 5 at noon on Otter Tail Lake. Register here: <https://www.plungemn.org/events/ottertail/>

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## **Waste Audits Reveal Recycling and Disposal Trends**

A waste audit is a physical analysis of the waste stream, with waste being sorted into categories to learn about disposal trends. Past audits focused on recycling rates before and after single sort recycling was implemented. Data from repeated waste audits can show trends over time and can be used to inform educational initiatives and programming

[MORE](#)

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## **Renewable Energy Ordinance Approved by Board Commissioners**

A final draft of the Renewable Energy Ordinance was approved by the Otter Tail County Board of Directors on November 23, 2021. The Ordinance became effective December 1, 2021

The ordinance revised the existing Wind Energy Conversion Systems ordinance to include provisions for solar energy systems. As a result, the name needed to be altered to be more comprehensive.

[Renewable Energy Ordinance](#)

[MORE](#)

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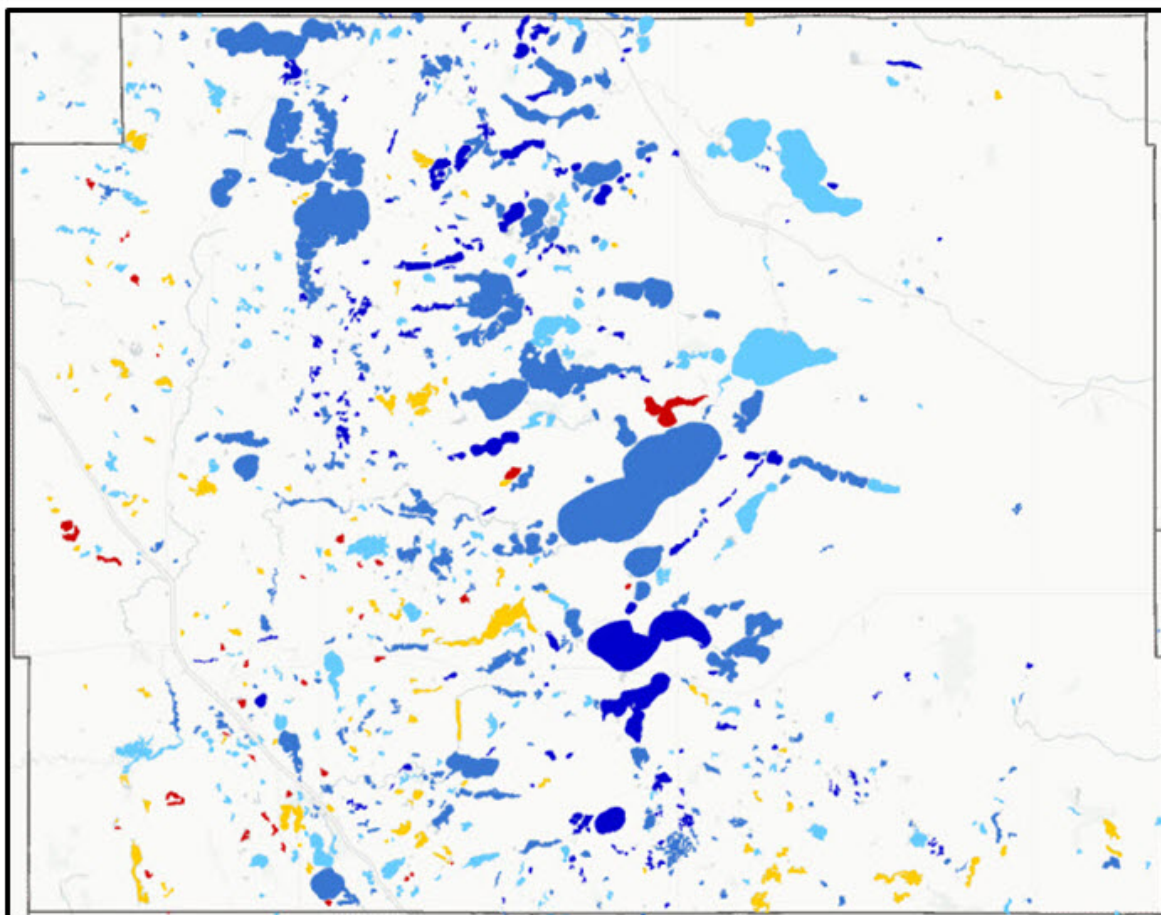


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### Otter Tail County Satellite Imagery

Clarity (meters)



### Key Water Quality Monitored Using Satellite Imagery

With more than 12,000 lakes Minnesota has too many lakes to monitor by conventional ground-based sampling. But, satellite remote sensing can.

The [Minnesota LakeBrowser](#) is an online interactive lake water clarity/quality tool with Landsat-derived classifications of lake clarity of more than 10,500 lakes measured 11 times from 1975-2018. It also includes searchable statewide maps of chlorophyll concentrations and chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM) levels for several recent years. The chlorophyll classifications are based on the European Sentinel-2 satellites.

**No need to search maps for your lake.**

Click on the desired lake report in the OTC COLA [Water Quality Analysis Reports library](#) to bring up the Report. Click on the UMN LakeBrowser link in the Report to go directly to your lake in the UMN LakeBrowser. [Questions?](#)

[MORE](#)

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## **Infested Waters List**

The DNR will add a lake, river, pond or wetland to the infested waters list if it contains an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters. The DNR may also list a lake, river, pond or wetland as infested if it is connected to a body of water where an aquatic invasive species is present.

To reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species, activities like bait harvest and water use are managed differently in infested waters.

[MORE](#)

[Otter Tail County Infested List](#)

[Minnesota Infested List](#)

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[AIS \\* Water Quality \\* Administration \\* Regulation](#)

## **Featured Posts - December 2021**

- [Understanding Water Quality Reports](#)
- [UMN LakeBrowser](#)
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

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## **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [December 01, 2021](#)
- [November 23, 2021](#)

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## **Instant Access Links**

- [Newsletter Article Index](#) - Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2021 samples\)](#) - Individual reports for 60 OTC COLA Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2018\)](#) - Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#) - View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- **We want to hear from you!** - Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Scott Gaudette · Sylvia Soeth

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Bass Lake Underwood Association · Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID · Boedigheimer Lake Association · Clitherall Lake Association · Dead Lake

Association · Devils Lake Association · Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow Lake Association · Franklin Lake Association · Hoffman Lake Association · Jewett Lake Association · Lake Lida Property Owners Association · Lake Lizzie Lakeshore Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association · Little McDonald Kerbs and Paul Lakes LID · Long Lake at Vergas Association · Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement Association · North Long Lake Association · North Turtle Lake Association · Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association · Pebble Lake Association · Pelican Lake Property Owners Association · Pickerel Lake Improvement Association · Pine Lakes LID · Prairie Lake Lakeshore Association · Round Lake 56-214 · Rush Lake Association · Silent Lakes Association · Silver Lake Property Owners Association · South Turtle Lake Improvement District · Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association · Sybil Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant