

Chautauqua Lake, A Great Lake Seeking a Greater Future

Weed Cutting Characteristics

Rally 052717

- 65 years of unregulated (no permit required) weed cutting in Chautauqua Lake
- Environmental impacts cited in DEC documents
 - Non-selective: removes native and beneficial as well as invasive weeds
 - Unrecovered cut weed fragments can spread weeds to other areas of the lake
 - Alters plant communities: exotic plants dominate growth post-cutting
 - Kills fish, especially the small and slow
 - Constant presence of on-water machinery (significant fossil fuel consumption)
 - Reduces oxygen for fish and increased turbidity
- Other environmental impacts
 - Growth of multiple in place of single weed tips when cut (like pruning a bush)
 - Annual on-bottom deposition of weeds and fragments
 - Shoreline/near shore deposition of weed fragments which rot and produce a foul odor
 - Rotted shoreline weed fragments support algae growth, some with unhealthy toxins
 - Shoreline deposition of weed fragments threaten viability of shoreline buffer plantings
- Regulation/permitting would identify and mitigate impacts
- Weed cutting cost comparisons must include mitigation of impacts

Chautauqua Lake Partnership – Deposition Comparison

