

## Huron River Chain of Lakes Update

July 13, 2018

If you have been out on the lakes this week, you may have noticed the harvesting machines and/or the herbicide applicator going about their business. This comes at a great relief to see this project finally get some momentum!

We are still waiting on the MDEQ to possibly issue permits for the Baseline Lake Canals and a small portion of Portage Lake. These permits are currently under final review and we could possibly see these permits getting issued sometime early next week.

**HERBICIDE TREATMENT SCHEDULE:** Ongoing. With the current permits in hand, the applicator hopes to wrap up herbicide applications for Gallagher, Long and Whitewood Lakes and connectors by Monday. The applicator continuously updates their online calendar schedule indicating what day specific lake applications will be occurring on. Please use this online calendar as the quickest method of checking the treatment schedule for your lake. The online schedule can be found here:  
<https://www.aquaticservicesinc.info/schedules>

Links have also been embedded on the main Chain of Lakes management page:  
<https://www.washtenaw.org/327/Chain-of-Lakes> and again on the Chain of Lakes Weed Control Activities page: <https://www.washtenaw.org/799/Chain-of-Lakes-Weed-Control-Activities>

Please note that scheduling may change at any time due to weather and/or MDEQ requirements. Prior to the commencement of applications, please be on the watch along the shorelines for the posting of **YELLOW** signs, which will indicate the day of treatment, exact pesticides used and the water use restrictions associated with the pesticides used. Please note that visual results of herbicide effectiveness may take 14 days or longer to become evident. I understand that the postings are occurring THE DAY OF treatment, but this is meeting the requirements set under the permits and logistically the best way for the applicator to conduct his business. We will be working on methods to make this more efficient in the future. Making use of the online calendar is the best way to plan your irrigation schedule or water use activities.

**MECHANICAL WEED HARVESTING SCHEDULE:** Ongoing. I understand that there was some confusion with the links implying that harvesting was to take place in June. However, June was used because Mid-June is when I was given the harvesting maps to post. Harvesting is a methodical process and as many of you know there was a lot of biomass out there! So harvesting is continuing with the planned areas posted on the weed control page.

**Other NEWS:** A general HRCL public service announcement: **Swimmers Itch!** I have received reports that several cases have popped up recently on Zukey and Strawberry Lakes. Here is a link to the CDC about swimmers itch: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html>

This is a very good resource that I STRONGLY suggest you take a look at. But here is a brief summary of it though...

Swimmers itch is an allergic reaction caused from exposure to microscopic parasites released from infected snails into the water. These parasites mainly reside in ducks, geese, swans and gulls. They are passed into lakes through the feces of these animals which is then taken up by the snails. This issue is found throughout the world and tends to crop up more frequently during the summer months.

Treatment can generally be done at home with a corticosteroid cream (like cortizon-10 which you can find at a CVS or Meijer), application of cold compresses, bathe in Epsom salts or baking soda or a general anti-itch lotion. Try to avoid scratching those itches because the rash could become infected!

Swimmers itch is not contagious from person to person!

As long as migratory birds visit the lake and poop in it, there is always a threat of a swimmer itch problem popping up any given year.

To minimize swimmers itch (other than staying out of possible infected waters) would be to quickly rinse off with the garden hose or shower followed by a thorough towel dry after spending time in the lake. Allowing your body to "air dry" is strongly discouraged and at a minimum, a thorough towel dry after exposure to the lake water.

That's all I have for now! As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns you may have. I work very hard on trying to provide a prompt response.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe weekend!