

Critical Habitat Area Wisconsin 2 – East Shore of the Main Lake

This Critical Habitat Area encompasses approximately 2 miles of shoreline along a portion of the east shore, extending out to the 10-ft depth contour (Figure 11). It supports important shallow water habitat (Figure 24). The shoreline at this Critical Habitat Area is composed of some native herbaceous growth and shrub layer with abundant wooded cover and home development.

This site was selected for its fish habitat value.

The Plant Community:

The plant community at this site includes 9 species of aquatic plants.

The submergent plant community provides many fish and wildlife benefits (Table 12). Slender naiad, elodea, water stargrass and wild celery occur at this site. A macrophytic algae, stonewort, occurs here.



Figure 24. Wisconsin Critical Habitat Area 2: East Shore of Main Lake.

Table 12. Wildlife and Fish Uses of Aquatic Plants in Critical Habitat Area 2

Aquatic Plants	Fish	Water Fowl	Song and Shore Birds	Upland Game Birds	Muskrat	Beaver	Deer
Submergent Plants							
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	C, F, I	F(Foliage) I					
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	F, C	F*(Seeds, Foliage)	F(Seeds)				
<i>Nitella</i> sp.		F, I*					
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	F*, C, I, S	F*, I	F		F		
<i>Zosterella dubia</i>	F, C, S	F(Seeds)					

F=Food, I= Shelters Invertebrates, a valuable food source C=Cover, S=Spawning

*=Valuable Resource in this category

*Current knowledge as to plant use. Other plants may have uses that have not been determined.

After Fassett, N. C. 1957. A Manual of Aquatic Plants. University of Wisconsin Press. Madison, WI

Nichols, S. A. 1991. Attributes of Wisconsin Lake Plants. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Info. Circ. #73

Wildlife Habitat

Shoreline shrubs and brush provide wildlife habitat. This site provides:

- 1) shelter, cover, nesting and feeding areas for songbirds

Fish Habitat

The boulder, rubble and gravel lake bed at this site provide critical fish habitat. This site provides:

- 1) spring spawning for walleye
- 2) year-round nursery areas and feeding areas for walleye and largemouth bass

Recommendations for Area 2

Recommendations for the terrestrial shoreline buffer:

- 1) Maintain current wildlife habitat
- 2) Issues of complying with shoreline zoning involve boat houses at the shore
- 3) No lawn care chemicals or fertilizers to be used on shore properties
- 4) Shoreline and bank vegetation needs to be restored through revegetation of the native vegetation
- 5) No permits for retaining walls or rip-rap issued, use biological methods for bank protection.
- 6) No bank grading

Recommendations for the aquatic habitat below the Ordinary High Water Mark

- 7) Maintain current protection of area for fish habitat
- 8) Do not remove fallen trees along the shoreline
- 9) Do not alter the littoral zone except for improvement of spawning habitat
- 10) Maintain the aquatic vegetation for wildlife habitat, fish cover and as a buffer for water quality protection. Permits required for any vegetation removal.
- 11) No permit approval for pea gravel beds or sand blankets, except for DNR fishery or wildlife approved projects. Maintenance of current lake bed is critical for fish spawning.
- 12) No dredging or lake bed removal or modifications.
- 13) Pier placement by permit only to minimize number of piers and their size and disturbance; require light-penetrating pier material such as metal grating.
- 14) No boat ramp placement.
- 15) Recreational floating devices sited by permit only.