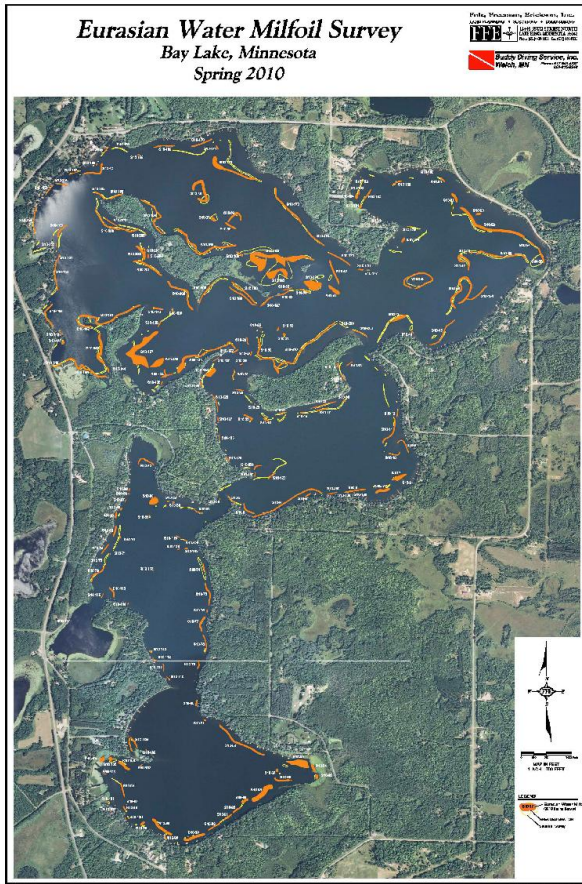


EWM Question & Answer #1



Oh my, look at that map. Have we lost the fight?

We're beginning our series with this logical and extremely critical question because the success of our program is completely dependent on how we understand this key issue.

The map at the left is scary, right? Good. Because EWM must be taken seriously.

What do you see? A lake with a lot of EWM? Sure, but we need to dig deeper

1. EMW has been in Bay Lake for nearly two decades. It's had 18 years to find all of the good growing areas.
2. It will grow wherever the plants can get light. In Bay Lake, that's up to a depth of 20 feet. Technically the area in a lake where weeds can grow is called the littoral area.....and *we've got an awesome amount of it*. Not only does it follow our twisting shoreline, but all of our sandbars and sunken islands are also littoral areas. The configuration that makes Sessabegamah so pretty also makes it exceptionally vulnerable.
3. Now look back at the map. First, find the areas marked in yellow. (If you can't find them, read the rest of this article and then open of the link to the much larger copy of the 2010 Survey Map.) The yellow areas are where EWM was last year. In some cases our 2009 treatment kept it from coming back in 2010.

Then look at the large orange areas. Good examples are SE of Content, East of the SE portion of Malkerson Island and South of Bird Island. These areas are hard to treat and, for the most part, not greatly affecting recreational use. So they don't get treated as often. That's how untreated EWM spreads.

Finally, look at the narrow orange lines and imagine them ten times wider and extending around the lake, and, while you're at it, color most of White Hawk Bay orange (i.e. all those "sunken islands").....because *that's where EWM would be today if it weren't for BLIA's targeted and ongoing treatment program.*

4. Let's take one more look at the map. Every year the survey maps show areas where treatments have kept EWM from returning at all for multiple years. Current examples include, Hunter's Bay and the Hunter's Bay Point area, Birkeland's, most of Eaglewood and Eaglewood Bay. As a result of our upcoming Fall 2010 treatments, next year's map will show other areas where EWM was given the boot.

In summary:

-EWM has a long history in Bay Lake.....and it will almost certainly stay.

-Bay Lake has an awesome amount of prime growing area.

-BLIA's strategy of targeted and rotating treatments is effective and, more importantly, far better than the alternative.

So, maybe we should ask the question in a different way:

Are we going to eradicate EWM? No

Is EWM a problem? Yes

Does it currently have a substantially adverse affect on most of our recreational activity? No

Would it be worse if we reduced or stopped our treatment program? Yes, dramatically so.

Have we lost the fight?

No!

To learn more about EWM, our treatment strategy and how we could lose the fight, visit BayLake.com weekly. The series will last through September. And, please remember to send in your questions.