

## **Controlled Methods Test (CMT) – Weekly Update: July 7, 2022**

*This is your weekly update regarding the Controlled Methods Test (CMT) sent to you from the TKPOA Owner Communication Working Group (comprised of volunteer Homeowners). We are committed to providing our fellow TKPOA Homeowners with these weekly updates, until the time that the turbidity curtains are removed.*

**Turbidity Curtain Removal:** As we draft this update, we are six weeks after treatment for Area B (42DAT), with monitoring data available for 35DAT. We have achieved two “non-detects” for endothall in every test site except for Site #1 in Area A and Site #19 in Lake Tallac (more below). We expect that results from last Friday’s sample will be our first “non-detect” in Site #1. We have gotten requests for monitoring data from property owners, so we have attached the tracking sheet used to monitor herbicide levels inside the test sites. These “TA” (test area) sites are represented by the blue dots on the monitoring map (also attached).

Unfortunately, the triclopyr degradation data continues to disappoint. The measured concentrations are dropping consistently at ~50% per week (see attached degradation curve for Area B). This curve suggests that we are three to four weeks from reaching the target for “non- detect”, RL = 1ppb. With an allowance for sampling turnaround time, plus curtain and barrier removal, that leaves us four to five weeks from being able to re-open our waterways. As a result, the TKPOA Board will have to extend the “Emergency Rule”, presumably by about a month. The project team is disappointed by this delay and appreciates everyone's patience and sacrifice.

It's noteworthy that the “receiving limit” (5ppb) for endothall is 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the “receiving water limit” (100ppb). That is, there is a 20X margin for safety. For triclopyr, that ratio is 1/400<sup>th</sup> or a 400X safety margin between the “safe water limit” and the reopening benchmark.

Receiving water limits are well-established, but reporting limits are typically driven by the lab. In this case, the bar for “non-detect” was set very high by the lab and the monitoring contractor and baked into the permit shortly before implementation. Lahontan and the contractor were acting with an abundance of caution to ensure no trace of herbicides reach Lake Tahoe. While painful today, success here will serve us well as we push forward toward a long-term solution to the invasive weeds.

To accelerate degradation, aerators have been running for a week in Sites 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9. Aerators were activated this week in sites 13, 14, & 15. Sites 10, 11, 12 and 19 are in the process of being activated. Once again, we thank the homeowners who donated dock space and power for this important contingency.

As endothall levels in Lake Tallac’s Site #19 are still above the receiving water limits (RWL), the Water Quality staff will start up aeration in that site, as mentioned above. Curtain removal has been pushed out two weeks. In Lake Tallac, we only need to reach RWL to safely re-open the area to recreation. As stated above, the receiving water limit for endothall is 100ppb.

Boats in Areas A and B can now run engines at the dock, if necessary for servicing or battery charging. Please, no cruising until the curtains are removed. Non-motorized water activities such as kayaks and paddleboards can be safely used, but do not transit the curtains or barriers.

**UV-C Update:** As we noted last week, the team is eager to get one of the two UV-C boats into the “combo” sites before further weed growth occurs. With the delay on removing curtains, this has become significantly more urgent. In addition to the options of craning and ramp repair, the project team will also

look at “locking” the boats into the test areas by adding an outer curtain, then removing the inner (and the boat barrier). Impacted homeowners will be notified as soon as any specifics are available.

**Harvesting:** As noted last week, machines are going in the water starting July 11. Harvesting should start in control and non-treatment sites the following week. The WQ Staff will be installing fixed markers (posts with caution tape around) to demarcate the treatment area boundaries for the harvester drivers. Please contact the WQ Department at 530-542-6444, ext. 275 if there are any issues with a marker near your property or if you have any questions or concerns.

For additional information and updates, please refer to the TKPOA Water Quality website at [www.keysweedsmanagement.org](http://www.keysweedsmanagement.org) or follow us on Instagram at @tahoekeyspoa\_wq. You can also contact the TKPOA Association Office, at 530-542-6444, Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4:30PM, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00AM – 2:00PM.

If you have additional questions, contact the TKPOA Water Quality Department directly by calling 530-542-6444, ext. 275 Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4:30PM or by email at [waterquality@tahoekeyspoa.org](mailto:waterquality@tahoekeyspoa.org).