

## **Controlled Methods Test (CMT) – Weekly Update: July 14, 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.*

### **KEY POINTS:**

- TKPOA board extends “Emergency Boating Restriction” to **August 19.**
- A proposal to “lock” the large UV-C boat into restricted “restricted area A” next week will be submitted to LRWQCB this week for review.
- Additional actions to address triclopyr levels will include “stirring” and UV-C treatment of “combo” sites (subject to Lahontan approval).
- Harvesting and pile pick-up will start the week of 7/18, but will be limited to two teams due to the difficult labor market.
- Property owners are observing dark brown/green water color and high turbidity levels, especially inside Area A - this is nothing to be alarmed about.
- Given extended boating restrictions, please contact WQ if you can help out a neighbor with docking space.

**Boating restrictions:** On July 11th, the TKPOA board extended the “Emergency Boating Restriction” from July 18th to August 19th due to the levels of triclopyr. As the lagoon waters are entirely safe, the board also amended the rule to allow non-motorized water activities (kayak, paddleboards, etc). Endothall is at “non-detect” in all thirteen herbicide test sites except Lake Tallac as of July 8th. Triclopyr is at an average of 16ppb (this number is an estimate) in “Restricted Area B” after six weeks. “Area A” ranged from 12ppb to 120ppb (Site #14, see section below) for triclopyr after five weeks. All these readings are well below the safe “receiving water limit” of 400 ppb.

**Clarification:** We have received some questions about some of the terms used in these weekly updates. We hope this helps clarify (see attached map for review).

- There are three “restricted areas” = Area A (western portion of the west lagoon, Area B (southeastern portion of west lagoon), and Area C (east end of Lake Tallac).
- Area A has nine “test sites” (1,2,3,5,10,11,12,13,14), Area B has three “test sites” (8,9,15), and Area C has two “test sites” (19, 21).
- For Areas A and B, all test site monitoring locations must be at “non-detect” levels for both herbicides before the curtains can be removed. The procedure for Lake Tallac’s curtain is still under discussion, as it is a separate body of water.
- There are eight test sites (UV only, LFA, and “control”) in the west lagoon outside of the curtains/restricted area, plus two test sites in the western part of Lake Tallac.
- Overall, there are currently **twenty-four** “test sites”: seven herbicide-only, six “combo” (UV + herbicide), three UV-C-only, five “control”, and three LFA.

**“Locking” UV-C Boat:** It is critical to treat the “combo” sites soon, before much further weed growth occurs. The project team has looked into “craning” the UV-C boat over Emerald Drive, enhancing the West Garmisch ramp to accommodate the craft, and “locking” the UV-C boat into Area A using turbidity curtains. The latter is the simplest. Lahontan rejected our first proposal, which involved locking with the two existing curtains. We will follow up with a three double-curtain proposal. The latter option would

unfortunately put another handful properties behind the curtains near test Site #2. The process would involve:

1. Parking the UV-C boat and a work barge just outside the existing outer curtains.
2. Installing a new 3<sup>rd</sup> double curtain lakeward of the two boats.
3. Removing the current outer curtains at Site #2.
4. Modifying the boat barrier to allow the UV-C boat to pass.
5. Removing the existing inner curtains so that the UV-C craft can proceed into Restricted Area A. If approved, homeowners impacted by the new curtain will be contacted by TKPOA management.

**Actions to Address Triclopyr Readings:** Levels of triclopyr in Site #14 are about five times the average of the other sites in Area A. This is primarily due to the fact that Site #14 was isolated by its own turbidity curtain until July 7<sup>th</sup>. Starting late this week, the WQ team will begin “stirring” the water near Site #14 to accelerate the mixing. The experts indicate that UV-C light is an important factor in the degradation of triclopyr, so starting treatment in the “combo” sites should have an impact. UV-C, along with aeration and flow, should help accelerate the degradation process.

**Water Color and High Turbidity:** There are high turbidity readings, especially within Area A. This is why you may be seeing murky colored water - dark brown and green. Our teams are aware of this and are currently observing and monitoring, however there is nothing to be alarmed about. However, if you want to be more involved in this process, you can report your observations of water color and algae on the League to Save Lake Tahoe’s [Citizen Science App](#).

**Harvesting & Weed pick-up:** Harvesting and pile pick-up are still scheduled to start on July 18<sup>th</sup>, but service will be limited to two crews. Due to rapidly rising wage rates and high demand for labor, the TKPOA is having significantly difficulty filling summer positions. The board will be reviewing issues and options at its July 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

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).