

June \_\_, 2024

Dear ODNR,

First, I want to compliment you and your staff for your hard work with Dr. Jones. It made a real difference and basically saved our boating season last Year. However, as I write this in late June, Indian Lake's 'open zone' which constitutes a significant portion of the lake, remains infested with weeds. We were told these weeds would die off as the water warmed, but by the time they do half of the boating season could be over.

From my perspective, given the large amount of commercial activity and regional tourism generated by Indian Lake, the Lake needs to be clear of weeds in early May in order that boaters, tourists, businesses, etc. can be assured of a viable recreational boating season and plan accordingly.

Harvesters are harvesting. However, this clearly is not enough due to the obvious fact that the weeds rapidly grow back.

Harvesting simply is not adequate to provide for true recreational boating. Subsurface weeds not only clog engine intakes but also create large no-go areas which may not be obvious to casual boaters resulting in breakdowns. Additionally, boating is not the only recreational activity impacted. Subsurface weeds create an unpleasant and potentially dangerous experience, scaring children and parents attempting to swim, tube and ski.

The bottom line is that the current situation can and will dramatically impact tourism and recreational use of Indian Lake as the public will look at its condition early in the season and then make alternative plans to go elsewhere. And once such a perception is created, it will be difficult to overcome

That being said it is clear that much more direct action needs to be taken immediately, whether it is utilization of more intense chemical treatment, dredging, reducing the outrageous goose population and any other methods recommended by Dr. Jones and/or other experts.

It's time to address this problem at a whole new level.

Sincerely,

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