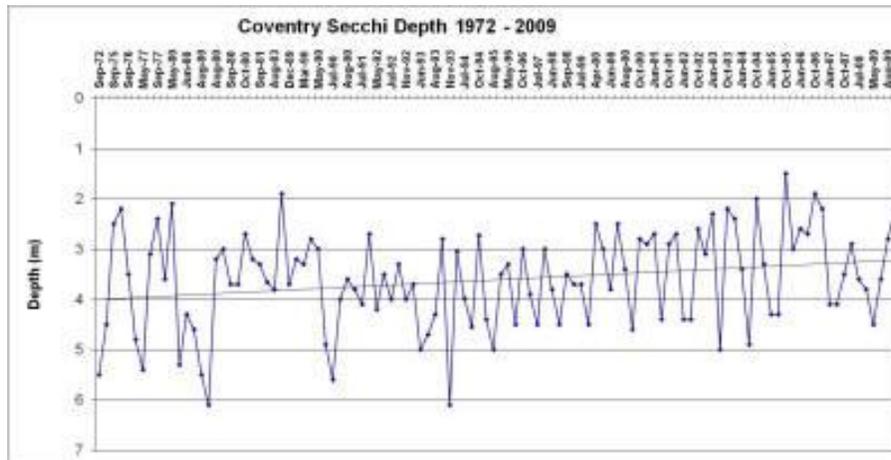


Overview

Recent conditions:

Secchi Disk		4.0 m
Total phosphorus		7 µg/L



The quality of waters in Coventry Lake has been monitored since 1972. Two of the major water quality characteristics sampled are **Secchi Disk** transparency and **total phosphorus**, indicators of the **trophic status** or how clean the lake is. The Secchi Disk reading is taken by lowering the disk (see figure) into the lake to the depth where it disappears, raising it to where it reappears, and then averaging the two depths.



Secchi Disk

Lakes are often classified by their trophic status, which is the state of nutrient enrichment of the lake. Eutrophic lakes are characterized as being nutrient rich, oligotrophic lakes are nutrient poor, and mesotrophic lakes are in between. The committee has adopted a color code to indicate the current conditions of the lake.

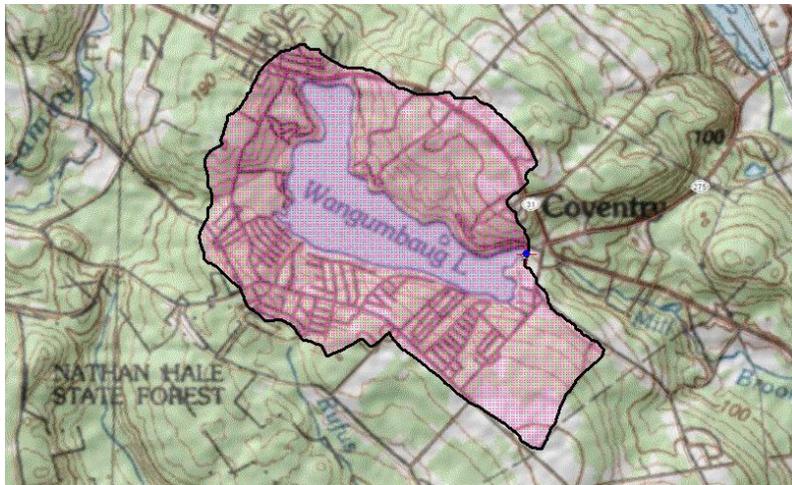
Defining Ranges for Trophic State of Lakes in Connecticut based on the 2011 Connecticut Water Quality Standards (color code added).

Secchi Disk Transparency

Oligotrophic		6+ meters mid-summer
Mesotrophic		2-6 meters mid-summer
Eutrophic		1-2 meters mid-summer
Highly Eutrophic		0-1 meters mid-summer

Total Phosphorus

Oligotrophic		0-10 $\mu\text{g/L}$ spring and summer
Mesotrophic		10-30 $\mu\text{g/L}$ spring and summer
Eutrophic		30-50 $\mu\text{g/L}$ spring and summer
Highly Eutrophic		50+ $\mu\text{g/L}$ spring and summer



Map of Coventry Lake and watershed (1:24,000) (<http://streamstats.usgs.gov/connecticut.html>)