

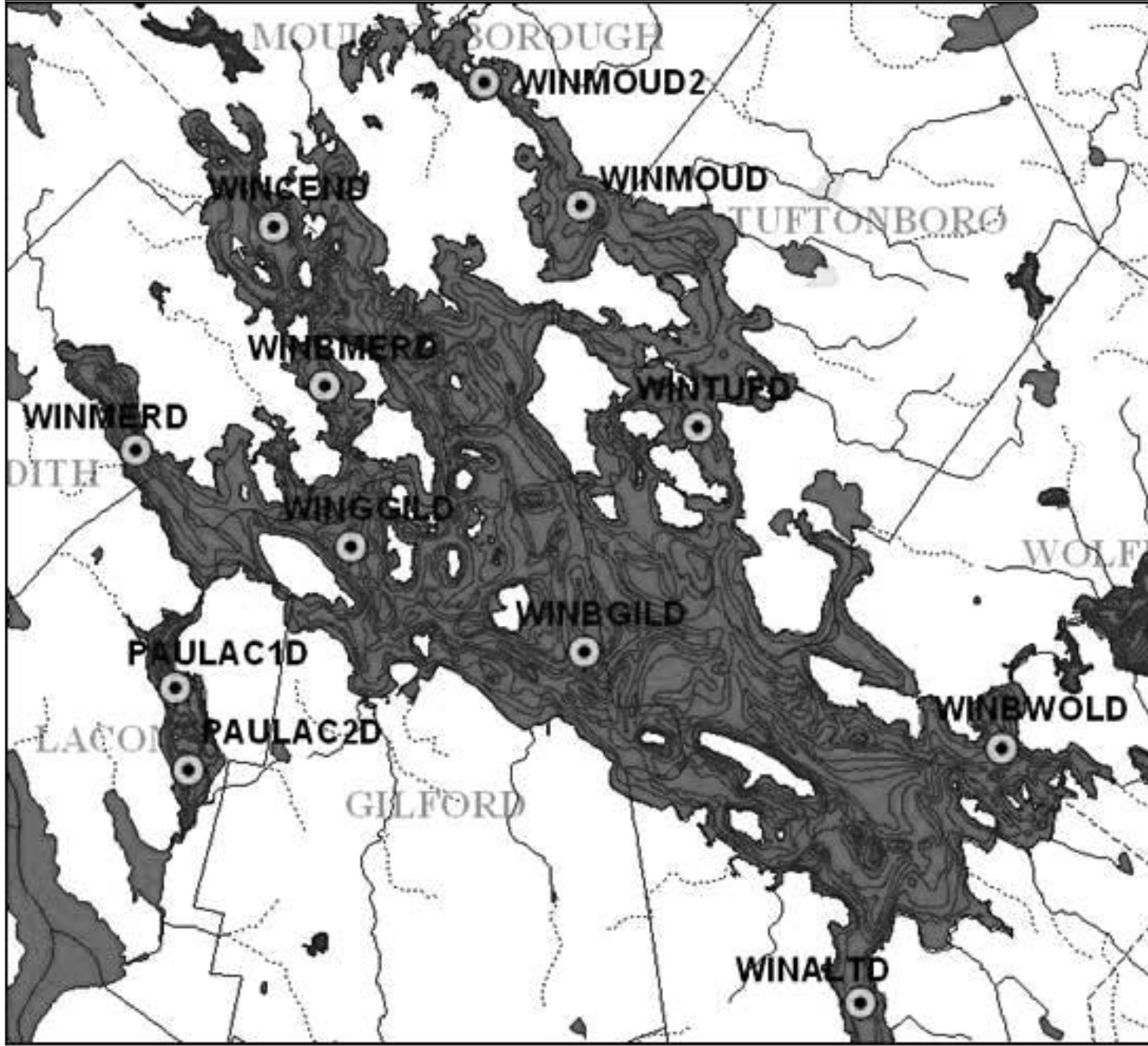
Post-ice out sampling results are in for Winnepesaukee

LAKES REGION — On April 2 a small flotilla of boats headed out on to Lake Winnepesaukee under sunny skies and unusually warm weather to take water samples in a manner that has never occurred before.

The purpose of the sampling was to determine the nutrient levels of phosphorus in Lake Winnepesaukee at spring overturn. The values of phosphorus at spring overturn, when the lake is fully mixed vertically (from surface waters to bottom waters), are used to predict summer productivity and biological activity in Lake Winnepesaukee, as phosphorus is a limiting nutrient and key indicator of productivity in freshwater lakes. High values of phosphorus lead to increased algal blooms, and growth of vegetation in lakes.

A second outcome of the ice out phosphorus sampling is the calibration of computer models that are being used to determine the trophic state of the bays and inlets on Lake Winnepesaukee. In general, trophic state refers to the biological production, both plant and animal life, that occurs in a lake. The level of production that occurs is defined by several factors, but primarily by the phosphorus supply to the lake and the volume and residence time of the water in the lake.

There are three trophic states that lakes can be classified as oligotrophic, mesotrophic, and eutrophic. Lake Winnepesaukee is classified as an oligotrophic lake, which means it is generally characterized by low productivity and is nutrient poor. The state of NH has recently set water



Water quality testing occurred at several sites around Lake Winnepesaukee.

COURTESY PHOTO

quality standards for phosphorus for each of the trophic states; values below 8 ppb (ug/L) are considered representative of an oligotrophic lake.

The results from the sampling will provide useful information in the development of the Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan, an effort currently underway under the direction of the Lakes Region Planning

Commission, the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed

Association, the University of NH Center for Fresh-

water Biology, the Center for the Environment at Ply-

mouth State University, the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Areas Council and the communities of Meredith, Laconia, and Gilford during this first planning phase.

Highlights of the results:

12 sites were sampled from one-meter depth to bottom depth at three-meter intervals

Average phosphorus concentrations for the sites ranged from 5.4 – 8.9 ppb

The higher mean phosphorus concentration of 8.9 ppb occurred at the Moultonboro Bay Inlet site, which is a shallow and embayed area.

For further information on the results, the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan, or if you are interested in Adopting Winni – volunteers and sponsors are needed for water quality monitoring, please contact Pat Tarpey at 527-2093 or 279-8171.

Funding for this project was provided in part by a Watershed Assistance Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

LAMONTAGNE

(Continued from Page A1)

In what he termed “election-year conversions,” other candidates have shifted to the right in the last six months.

Mr. Lamontagne pointed

out that he had opposed both President Barack Obama’s choice of activist judge Sonia Sotomayor as his first appointment to the U. S. Supreme Court and also pas-

sage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, that has resulted in adding billions of stimulus dollars to the ever-growing national debt.

Mr. Lamontagne said, “I’m someone voters can count on to be the voice of the people.”

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