

Patoka Lake (2017)

Patoka Lake (PRR) is located in Dubois, Crawford, and Orange counties in Indiana (IN). The dam was built by the Louisville District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (LRL) for the primary purpose of flood control and became operational in February 1978. The dam site is located at river mile 118.3 of the Patoka River. At summer pool, the surface area of PRR is 8,880 acres. Note: The term “lake” is substituted for the technically correct “reservoir” throughout this document for consistency.

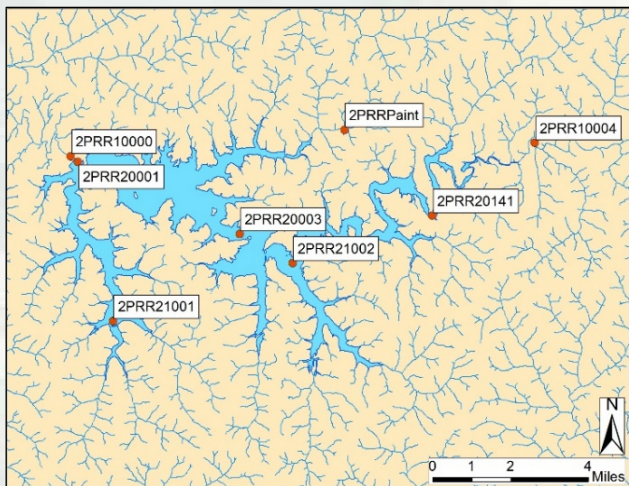


Figure 1. PRR sample sites in 2017 for field and chemical data.

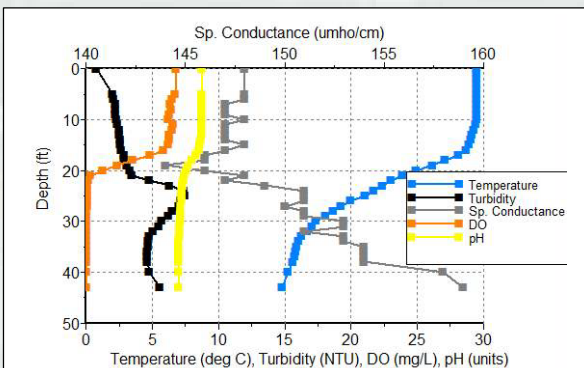


Figure 2. Field data taken at the dam site (2PRR20001; Figure 1) on 7/27/2017 at 07:00.

FY17 Routine Phytoplankton Top 3 Dominant

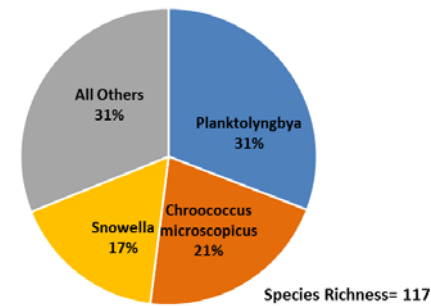


Figure 4. 2017 relative abundance of the entire phytoplankton community at PRR.

Phytoplankton (Algae) and green plants are the base of the food chain in aquatic food webs and convert nutrients and CO₂ through photosynthesis into biomass for all aquatic life. The LRL WQ Program sampled the phytoplankton community at PRR in July 2017. The distribution and identification of phytoplankton is measured throughout the water column at depths of 0.5, 10, and 20 feet at multiple locations across the lake body.

Figure 4 illustrates the relative abundance and species richness for the entire phytoplankton community at PRR. The relative abundance percentage was calculated using the density of phytoplankton species from all sample sites, at all depths. *Planktolyngbya*, a genera of cyanobacteria, was the dominant species found at PRR during the July sampling event.

Temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) profile data are regularly collected from LRL lakes. This data informs water control engineers on how to best use existing selective withdrawal capabilities to meet downstream water quality (WQ) targets established by each lake’s Water Control Plan (WCP) and state criteria. Figure 3a shows a time series graph of the 2017 tailwater water temperature compared with the guide curve from the lake’s WCP. Figure 3b shows a 2017 time series graph of the lake’s tailwater dissolved oxygen data with the applicable state criteria (blue line).

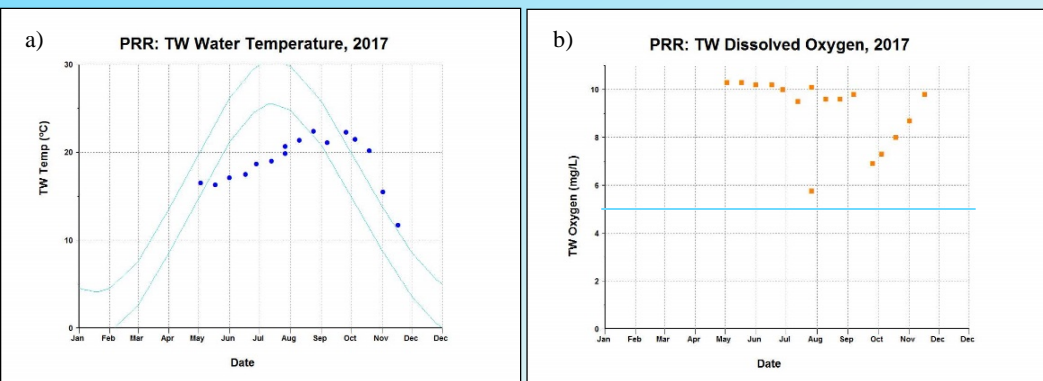


Figure 3. PRR time series data collected from the tailwater (2PRR10000; Figure 1): a) water temperature; and b) dissolved oxygen.

WQ in the Tailwater is assessed by analyzing exceedances of WQ criteria established by the IN Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). No criteria were exceeded in the tailwater (2PRR10000; Figure 1). Additionally, PRR did not exceed the USEPA’s recommended criteria for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and turbidity.

Zooplankton are microscopic animals that live in the water column and are an important part of the food chain. The LRL WQ Program sampled the zooplankton community at the dam site (2PRR20001; Figure 1) using a Wisconsin net pull of 20 vertical feet. Figure 5 illustrates the relative abundance for the zooplankton community and species richness at PRR. Species richness is an indicator of community health, with greater community health as species richness increases. The top 3 dominant zooplankton were *Diaphanosoma brachyurum*, *Conochiloides dossuarius*, and *Conochilus unicornis*.

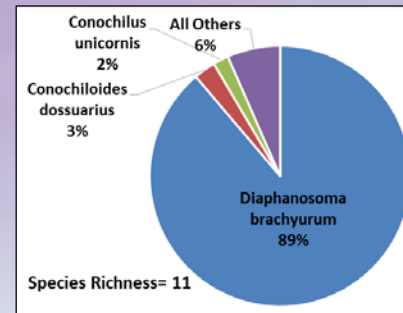


Figure 5. 2017 relative abundance of the zooplankton community at PRR.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in IN are addressed by the IN Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the IN Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in the IDNR HAB Response Standard Operating Procedure. The agencies sample and post appropriate recreational advisories for select lakes May through September of each year. The LRL WQ Program supports the state agencies efforts by reporting visual HAB indicators via the IN State Department of Health Algal Bloom Notification Form. LRL also supports the state agencies in HAB response by communicating HAB-related recreational advisories to the public.

