

Nutrient Response of Sediments in Reelfoot Lake Tennessee after Rehydration. (A00-gale104910-Poster)

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Abstract:

There have been recent discussions among federal and state agencies, as well as local communities, concerning eutrophication in Reelfoot Lake, TN. A lake drawdown is one of the management options being considered. Our study investigates the effects of a drawdown on the chemistry of nutrients in the sediments. Ten sediment samples were dredged from areas along the perimeter of the lake. Dried and ground samples of sediment were incubated with lake water for periods of up to five weeks. Nutrients (N and P) were measured weekly to record concentrations released from the sediment to the water column. The data collected indicate that for some of the locations sampled, drying and rewetting of the sediments could result in nutrients being released into the water column. These results demonstrate a potentially negative aspect of lake drawdown.

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