

Navigational conditions on Rice Lake/Elm Creek as of 7/28/2002:

Overall Rice Lake/Elm Creek conditions..... Algae content is increasing and water clarity is decreasing with warmer temperatures during the past several weeks. Many of the weeds that are posing hazards to navigation are loosely floating in massive quantities, measuring 1-2 feet deep from the surface. These areas would be totally impassable by any motorized watercraft at this time.

Specific Rice Lake/Elm Creek conditions:

Elm Creek Dam to County Road 30 Bridge.....60% of total area is open....Partial channel blockage from floating masses of Elodea, Coontail, Canadian Waterweed, and other assorted native plants. Areas outside of channel are mostly blocked. The channel area is currently passable by all motorized boats. Paddleboats may not be able to pass through portions of this vicinity.

County Road 30 Bridge to Tristan Bay Channel Island (across from Tristan Bay Dock)80% of total area is open...Partial channel blockage from floating masses of Elodea, Coontail, Canadian Waterweed, and other assorted native plants. Areas outside of channel are mostly blocked. This area is currently passable by all motorized boats. Paddleboats may not be able to pass through this vicinity.

Tristan Bay Channel Island to Rice Lake Northeast Entrance.....20% of total area is openComplete channel blockage from floating masses of Elodea, Coontail, Canadian Waterweed, and other assorted native plants. Areas outside of channel are completely blocked. The channel area is currently impassable by all watercraft and travel is strongly discouraged at this time.

Rice Lake Northeast Entrance into central Rice Lake.....40% of total area is open....Based on how the wind is blowing, the channel entrance from Rice Lake upstream to Elm Creek may be completely closed at times. Channel blockage is from floating masses of Elodea, Coontail, Canadian Waterweed, and other assorted native plants. Areas outside of channel are mostly blocked. This area is passable by all motorized watercraft if the winds keep the weeds clear; Paddleboat travel is strongly discouraged at this time.

Central Rice Lake to Elm Creek West Entrance.....95% of total area is open....Passage under the I-94 bridge is completely blocked as of 7/27 due to floating algae and weed masses. Main lake access is not a problem; access under the I-94 bridge is impassable for all watercraft.

Central Rice Lake to Southeast Corner of Rice Lake.....85% of total area is open....With the exception of the Malone Bay area and South I-94 bridge between Rice Lake and Fish Lake, this area is completely open for all watercraft navigation.

Conditions reported by George Schneider (RLAA) via boat and shore.

If you have more accurate, updated information, please forward to the Rice Lake Webmaster at: RiceLakeAssoc@attbi.com.