



Survey of the Nation's Lakes, Benthic Macroinvertebrates, Zooplankton, and Phytoplankton

Location: U.S. Lakes

Contract Period: May 2007-September 2009

EcoAnalysts Inc. was awarded the National Lakes Assessment benthic macroinvertebrate contract from EPA OWOW. This project encompassed lake systems, including rivers and streams, from 49 states, and was consistent with the Rapid Bioassessment Protocols of the EPA. EcoAnalysts organized an outstanding team to process and identify 1,272 phytoplankton samples, 2,520 zooplankton samples, and 1,189 macroinvertebrate samples. Each sample was processed gusing a 500-micron mesh sieve, and sorted to a minimum target count of 500 organisms. Each sample underwent a QC protocol that required at least 20% of the material be re-sorted to ensure a minimum 90 percent efficacy. The organisms were sorted into the groups Generals, Chironomidae, and Oligochaetes and were identified to genus/species. The QC component for taxonomy required that 10 percent of the samples be re-identified to ensure a minimum 90 percent efficacy. EcoAnalysts delivered all data on 1,189 samples in October, 2009. Additionally, EcoAnalysts assisted the EPA in establishing and standardizing methods of analysis, quality assurance procedures, and quality control processes for phytoplankton samples for the National Lakes Survey.