

Fox Lake Benthic Survey Results 2012 to 2018

- In general,
1. Richness should be high (close to the average for Muskoka or above).
  2. % EOT will decrease and % Chironomids will increase over time with water quality impairment.
  3. % Predators should be less than the other types of benthos (shredders, collector/gatherers) and these percentages should remain relatively constant over time.
  4. The Hilsenhoff Index value should be close to the average for Muskoka or less, as a lower value indicates healthier water.

Even though most of the lakes in Muskoka are quite similar, no two lakes are identical and there are various factors that play a role in determining the relative abundances of different types of aquatic invertebrates. Comparing your lake’s data to the rest of the lakes in Muskoka is not definite, but it can give you an idea. If there is a trend in all the types of indices and data, either above or below normal, it may indicate your lake’s overall quality.

