



Swimmer's Itch Committee

Update & Survey:

October 13, 2023

Since July of 2022 our committee has been gathering scientific data necessary to build a case to obtain a Minnesota DNR permit that would lead to the reduction of Swimmer's Itch cases on Bay Lake. Our process involves the live capture and relocation of common merganser ducks found on Bay Lake. The initial word from the MN DNR came in Mid-May 2023 and was *"no, but we'll research the topic more over the summer"*.

Unfortunately their continued "research" into the problem led to our permit being denied for 2023 in late July. Although it was not entirely unexpected, we were disappointed by their marginalizing of the problem as a nuisance with "mechanical fixes" such as toweling off or showering as solutions to prevent Swimmer's Itch.

Our committee remains focused and is pursuing alternative measures for the permit approval. We plan on resubmitting to the Minnesota DNR in 2024.

We continue to engage our scientific consultants, Swimmer's Itch Solutions. S.I.S. has a proven track record of reducing cases of Swimmer's Itch in Michigan through the relocation process. They have been retained by BLIA to carry out the process on Bay Lake upon the issuance of a permit from the MN DNR. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has already tentatively signed off on the necessary federal permit pending State of Minnesota approval.

Below is a link to our 2023 Swimmer's Itch Survey.

Now, more than ever, we need your support.

Swimmer's Itch is misunderstood by the MN DNR and the relocation process is completely new to them. We need to gather as much information as possible on how this problem impacts our use and enjoyment of Bay Lake.

One of the best ways to show your support is to complete the survey.

Your information is critical to building our case.

Thank you,

David Devin, Phil Malkerson, Phil Rollins, Rick Giertsen Jr.

Bay Lake Swimmer's Itch Survey - 2023



When working together

BayLakers make a difference!