

## **Cobbetts Pond Improvement Association Winter update – Road Salt impact to water quality**

*Greetings fellow Cobbetts Pond residents,*

*The boats and docks are out. Water activities have been put on hold until next year. Often when Winter arrives we forget about Cobbetts Pond and watershed water quality.*

*However; the Winter season can be very detrimental to water quality. It is this time of year when snow removal and road salting are in full swing. It is critical that we all focus on the best practices for snow removal, and the use of road salt.*

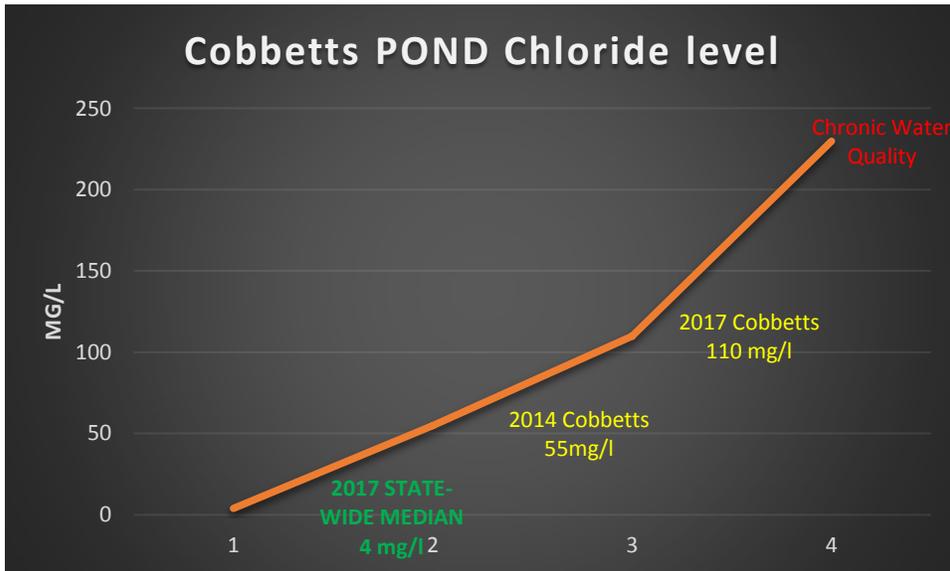
*CPIA volunteers spent the last season working directly with the DES collecting water samples; specifically testing for Chloride content. Cobbetts Pond has seen a marked increase in water Chloride content. This trend is detrimental to the future of Cobbetts Pond and surrounding watershed.*

### **Why is salt reduction important?**

As of 2014, 46 water bodies in New Hampshire are polluted with chloride due to road salt application. In several watersheds analyzed in the southern I-93 corridor, more than 50% of the salt load comes from private roads and parking lots. The other major sources are state and local roads and highways.

*See the chart below that shows where Cobbetts ranks within the state for chloride content.*

Cobbetts Pond chloride is trending to a chronic water quality state. The data from 2014 shows Cobbetts at about 55mg/L. The 2017 data shows Cobbett's range 100-110mg/L for chloride. The 2017 statewide Chloride concentration median is 4mg/L. If this increasing Chloride rate continues its trend, then Cobbetts will reach chronic water quality in several years.



### **Chloride:**

- **Damages plant life**
- **Causes the loss of healthy environment for fish and wildlife**
- **Cannot be removed once in the water**

### What can you do to help?

1. **Be sensitive to your personal snow and ice removal practices. Limit your use of salt and other de-icers that will impact the chloride content into the lake via runoff.**
2. **When hiring a contractor please ask if the contractor is a NH Certified Green SnowPro.**

Look for a certified salt applicator at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/salt-reduction-initiative/salt-applicator-certification.htm> or ask your current contractor to take the Green SnowPro course and become certified.

### How can you and your contractor benefit from the certification?

**Reduce Your Liability**

Under RSA 508:22, certified applicators **and those who hire them** are granted liability protection from claims arising from snow and ice conditions (slip and fall claims).

### **Certified Green SnowPros**

NH Certified Green SnowPros are leaders in the snow removal industry who are trained in the most up to date technologies and snow management practices to ensure a high level of service and safety to their customers.

### **Reduce Impacts to Local Waterbodies**

Once in our water supplies, there is no practical way to remove salt. Certified Green SnowPros are trained in salt reduction practices to help ensure clean water for future generations.

### ***Training***

For upcoming Green SnowPro Training dates  
<http://t2.unh.edu/green-snowpro-training-and-certification>

### **For more information:**

Visit [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) and see “Road Salt Reduction” under the A-Z list.

### **Contact:**

Salt Coordinator [salt@des.nh.gov](mailto:salt@des.nh.gov)  
(603) 271-5329

### **What else you can do to help improve Cobbetts Pond water quality:**

- Utilize rain barrels and build rain gardens on your property to prevent storm water runoff from reaching the lake.
- Remove Asian Clams and Chinese Mystery Snails whenever possible.
- Properly maintain your septic system.
- Do NOT fertilize your lawn.
- Do NOT use salt or other harmful ice reducing agents
- Monitor boats accessing the lake to make sure they are free of Milfoil.
- Pick up after pets.
- Do not feed ducks or geese, and discourage their overall presence.
- Report offenders.  
[http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/report\\_complaint.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/report_complaint.htm)