

North of Dargaville

McEvoy's Lake (Baylys Beach) NRC Lake No. 277



McEvoy's Lake showing the pasture catchment and impacts of cattle access.

Summary 2005

Overall ranking

Low: No submerged vegetation, cattle access has displaced emergent vegetation to deep water, *Gambusia affinis* present.

Threats

Few threats due to already degraded habitat.

Management recommendations

No Management recommendations apart from cattle exclusion.

Description

A small (1 ha), probably shallow (depth not ascertained) dune lake (1666781E 6023612N) situated in a pasture catchment. There is an inflow at the south-eastern end of the lake linking with a smaller waterbody further up-stream. The outlet on the western side flows to the west coast approximately 2 km north of the lake. Access is through private land on a well-formed track, but boat access would be difficult due to pugged, muddy margins.

Wetland vegetation

The dominant emergent species was *Eleocharis sphacelata* which formed a 3 to 5 m wide zone, excluded from the lake edge by cattle grazing/trampling. A zone of exposed turf plants was occasionally seen including *Myriophyllum propinquum* and *Potamogeton cheesemanii*.

Submerged vegetation

No submerged vegetation was observed.

LakeSPI

Reconnaissance only – no LakeSPI score generated.

Water birds

Poor aquatic habitat with disturbed grazed lake margin, poor emergent vegetation and no submerged vegetation. No birds were seen.

Fish

Poor aquatic habitat, *Gambusia affinis* common around the margins.

Aquatic invertebrates

No invertebrates were sampled.

Endangered species

No threatened species were observed in 2005.

Lake Ecological Value

Lake Ecological Value score of 1 “Low”, unfenced, with no submerged vegetation.

Threats

Access is through private land, and the current lake condition is not conducive for submerged plant growth, therefore risk of introduction and establishment is low. The pest fish *G. affinis* is established in the lake. The lake is severely degraded, with turbid water.

Management recommendations

No monitoring recommended.