

# 2013 ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN LAKES SURVEY

Photos courtesy of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

DEC partnered with the UAA  
Alaska Natural Heritage Program  
to survey lakes in the Arctic Coastal  
Plain region of the Natural  
Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.





Due to the remote location, most lakes were accessed by helicopter. Crews and gear, including rafts, had to be flown to each sampling location.





Crew members were assembled into two teams. One team focused on habitat assessments, macroinvertebrate and diatom collections. The second team collected water quality, sediment, and zooplankton collections.



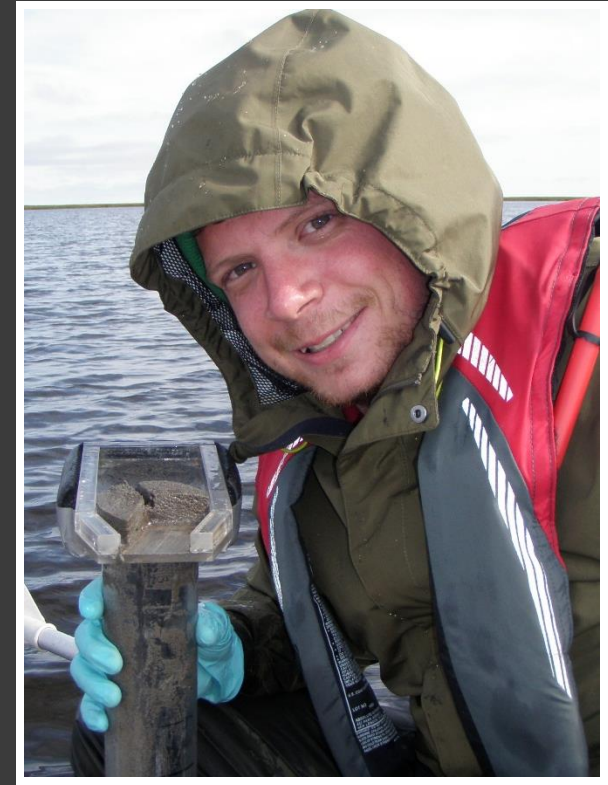
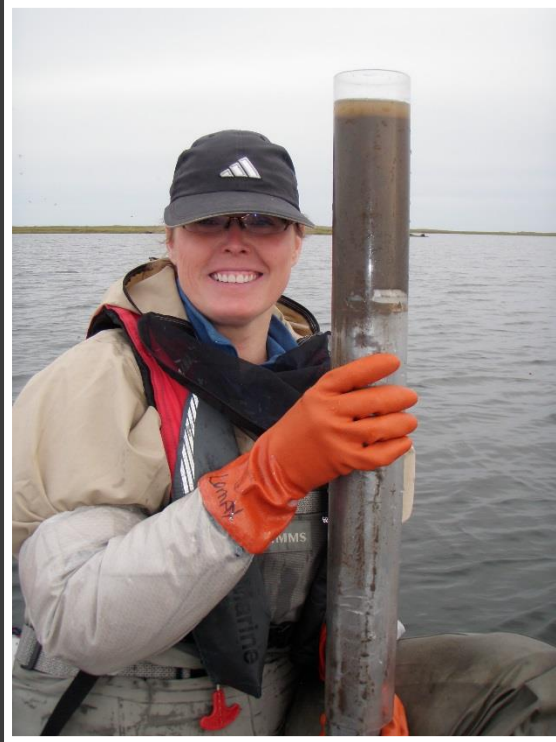
The physical habitat crew collected macroinvertebrate samples and recorded physical characteristics at ten evenly spaced plots around riparian and littoral zones of each lake.





Examples of macroinvertebrates collected during the survey.





The Index crew collected samples from the deepest part of the lake. They deployed zooplankton nets, took a sediment core, obtained a water profile, collected samples for water chemistry, chlorophyll and algal toxin samples.

Each evening, camp served as a makeshift lab where crews worked collectively to process, filter, and preserve samples collected that day. Processed samples were periodically shipped back to UAA or DEC for additional analysis.







Of course, the mosquitos were always willing to lend a helping hand.



