

# Increased Eurasian watermilfoil growth found at varied LCI sites in 2017 vs 2013-2015



Invasive milfoil (EWM) bed from 100 ft.



EWM viewed from boat



EWM growing around native Northern milfoil (green)



Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV, aka Drone) used to observe invasive milfoil growth



Research UAV used to identify EWM based on light reflectance fingerprints. The Watershed Council is working with Michigan Tech to develop this technology under a two year GLRI grant. Results of this work will make EWM location and identification quicker and easier.

Invasive milfoil (Eurasian watermilfoil, or EWM) growth increased slightly in 2016 vs 2013-2015 along some shoreline areas as determined by visual observation and quantitative stem counts. Growth of species such as eel grass (wild celery) and various pondweeds was observed whereas only sparse growth of these plants was observed in 2013-2015. EWM regrowth is expected but we can avoid a repeat of the 2012 EWM invasion with timely use of the biological control fungus, MT.

It will be imperative to apply the MT, a native fungus, for EWM management in 2017.

The Watershed Council has identified commercial producers but will need \$28,000 to \$30,000 to cover production and application costs.