



TIGRIS
WHERE WATERS THRIVE.

Van Etten Lake, Iosco County

July 10th, 2026

2026 Lake Management Report

2026 was the first year of the updated Special Assessment District (SAD) for Van Etten Lake. Oscoda Township retained Tigris (formerly LakePro) as the lake manager. This is also the third year of a 3-year contract with SOLitude to carry out treatments conducted on the lake, using a multi-year permit. Our lake management strategy was a continuation of our overall plan for the lake. The main goals were:

1. Locate and aggressively treat any Eurasian Milfoil
2. Locate and treat any other invasive species, such as Curly-Leaf Pondweed
3. Promote native plant growth, while keeping it below nuisance levels
4. Monitor No-Tolerance weed areas

In the winter 2023-2024, LakePro solicited bids for the herbicide treatments and SOLitude was awarded the contract.

The following is a summary of lake management activities that took place in up to the point of July 10th, 2026:

May 28th

Near and Offshore Herbicide Treatment #1

Tigris supervised the near & offshore treatment of the lake conducted by SOLitude. There were 5 nearshore areas totaling 15.5 acres, and 1 offshore area in the north bay that was 5.20 acres. We aimed to proactively treat these areas with a broad-spectrum herbicide and algaecide in preparation for the upcoming summer. Treatment was supervised and carried out without deviation from plan.

June 10th

Lake Vegetation Survey #1

Tigris surveyed the aquatic plants in the lake. On this survey, we were joined by a VELA representative. We were joined by Dan Banks throughout the duration of the assessment. We were on the water to survey and discuss any topics regarding the lake. Our first objective was to check the previous treatment areas, and the treatment was successful in controlling the offshore patches in the bay. We also looked for both native and invasive species and found native macrophytes. We then noted all the new areas of native plant and algae growth that were at or approaching nuisance conditions. Based on the results of this survey, we designed a custom treatment plan for review and approval by the Weed Committee. The primary nuisance noted during the first survey was an abundance of Chara.





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June 22nd

Algae & Herbicide Treatment #2

SOLitude applied herbicides around the majority of the lakeshore for algae and native plants. Plans were devised from survey results. The herbicide and algicide treatment included 73.72 acres with contact herbicides and algicides. Tigris was also on the lake to ensure the treatment took place according to the plan and the lake postings were done correctly the day of treatment.

July 14th

Lake Vegetation Survey #2

Tigris surveyed the aquatic plants in the lake to take inventory and record results from the prior treatment. This survey highlighted an issue with nuisance native pondweed growth in specific areas of the lake. We took note of certain areas that had areas with surface algae and areas in which were concentrated with macro-algae. No invasives were found, and native species were seen to be at a normal level with a few areas more dense by volume than others. We noted areas that were treated in the second application to have had successful results.





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Summary

In 2026, Van Etten Lake retained their treatment applicator for a third year. This marks a significant departure from previous practices, where a new applicator was typically contracted each year. TIGRIS, the organization overseeing this change, believes that retaining a single treatment applicator over multiple years will prove to be highly beneficial.

One of the key advantages of this new approach is the reduction in time spent on administrative tasks, such as waiting for the approval of a new permit annually. In previous years, the application process for permits required to begin treatments would often consume valuable time at the start of the season, delaying the applicator's ability to begin their work promptly. By retaining the same applicator year over year, TIGRIS anticipates a more streamlined process, where less time is wasted on administrative delays, allowing for a quicker start to the treatment season.

Furthermore, with a longer-term commitment, the treatment applicator can better plan and allocate resources, optimizing their efforts throughout the season. This continuity not only enhances the efficiency of treatments but also allows the applicator to develop a deeper understanding of the lake's unique characteristics, potentially leading to more effective and targeted treatments. Overall, this change is expected to significantly improve the management of Van Etten Lake, enhancing both the timing and quality of treatments and ultimately contributing to better long-term health for the lake ecosystem.

For the first survey, TIGRIS surveyed the littoral zone of the lake and did not find any invasive Eurasian Milfoil or Curly-Leaf Pondweed. So, we marked the areas of nuisance algae and native plants for treatment. As well as our survey, we inspected Solitudes treatment in the North-West Bay and surrounding areas as well. This treatment was approved prior to Solitude and TIGRIS coming onsite and totaled 20.70 acres at \$9,178.55. This treatment included the application of Flumioxazin, an algicide and herbicide paired with Tribune, an herbicide, to the entire treatment area. The use of these products was used specifically for the intent to reduce pondweed growth and surface algae that was accumulated within that area as well as controlling nuisance native species that topped out in growth during this time.

Approximately just over two weeks after treatment, TIGRIS conducted another lake vegetation survey. The previous treatment was successful in controlling the nuisance pondweeds in the treatment area. However, due to only treating a few areas, new native plant growth had reached nuisance levels along the majority of the shoreline of the lake. After reviewing our findings from the June survey, we planned another custom treatment for review and sent it to the VELA Weed Committee. Upon approval, we scheduled a treatment with Solitude for 73.72 acres at \$33,299.39, targeting the areas of densest plant & algae growth around the lake.

On Thursday, Dan and myself surveyed the littoral zone of the lake and still did not find invasive species. We noted nuisance pondweed growth, macro-algae growth, and in a few spots, we noted





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some shorelines had a buildup of filamentous algae. The treatment areas Solitude treated the previous time looked to be hit to a good effect. I will be supplying VLEA with an ROS for their approval based on our findings.

The 2026 lake management so far has been successful. We have met the primary goals of monitoring Eurasian Milfoil, watching for other invasive species, and suppressing nuisance plants. Going into 2027, permitting will be very streamlined like it was in 2026 if an applicator is approved for another 3-years.

The management of aquatic plants on Van Etten Lake is making good progress, but it's an ongoing process that has not yet concluded. Sustaining your efforts is crucial to maintaining the lake in the excellent condition observed most of the summer until the late algal bloom. It is imperative to remain vigilant in detecting any potential new invasive species and to persist in controlling the growth of native plants to ensure that boating, swimming, and fishing continue to improve for all those who enjoy the lake.

Thanks for another great summer on your lake,

Michael Smith

TIGRIS Aquatic Services

Operation Manager - Michigan





2026 Mid-Season Lake Management Expenditures

Tigris	Lake Management Consulting	\$ 8,240.00
EGLE	Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit	\$ 1,600.00
Solitude	Treatment #1	\$ 9,178.55
Solitude	Treatment #2	\$ 33,299.39

2026 Mid-Season Lake Management Total: \$52,317.94

Historical Lake Management Expenditures

2026	\$52,317.94
2025	\$56,519.53
2024	\$52,512.75
2023	\$48,732.44
2022	\$50,370.50
2021	\$54,967.50
2020	\$54,292.50
2019	\$31,315.00
2018	\$40,030.00
2017	\$20,404.00
2016	\$39,510.00
2015	\$38,120.00
2014	\$65,601.92
2013	\$38,897.50
2012	\$37,254.50
2011	\$58,475.25

