

# Tally Lake

**Surface Area: 1,211 acres**

**Maximum Depth: 446 feet (136 meters)**

**Drainage Size: 115,260 acres**

**Shoreline Length: 44,253 feet (8.38 miles)**

**Elevation: 3,999 feet (1219 meters)**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Tally Lake is located west of Whitefish in the Salish Mountain Range and is the second deepest natural lake in Montana at 136 meters. The lake is located in Flathead County in the Flathead National Forest of the Tally Lake Ranger District. The geology of the basin is composed of the Wallace formation belt series (55%), Picard formation belt series (20%), alluvium (13%) and the Ravalli group belt series (Ellis & Craft, 2008). There is one motorized public access site located in the campground on the northeast end of the lake.

## FISHERIES INFORMATION

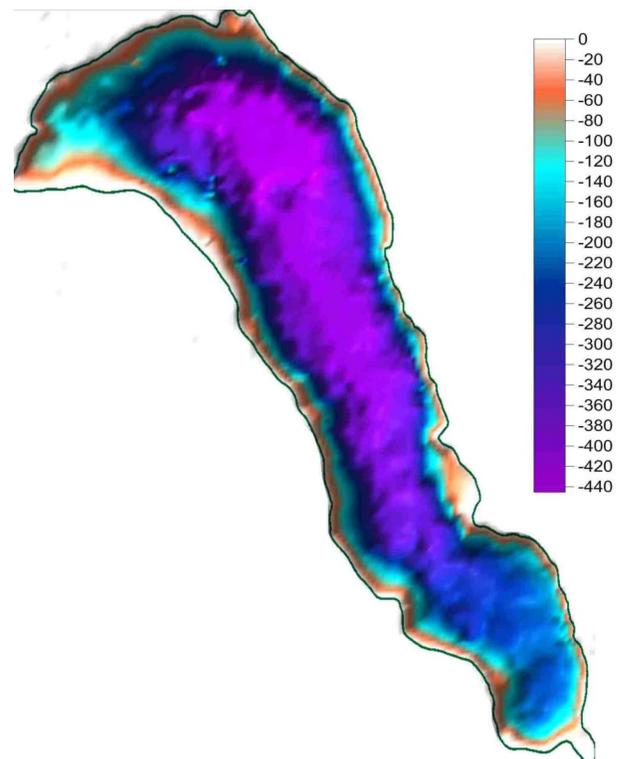
Fish distribution records indicate a presence of brook trout, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, kokanee, lake trout, largescale sucker, longnose sucker, northern pike, northern pike minnow, rainbow trout, and reidsided shiner. Tally has not been stocked by FWP since the mid 1980s. For more information see: <https://fwp.mt.gov/fish/stocking.html>.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Tally Lake is the subject of ongoing research by scientists at WLI (<https://whitefishlake.org/ari-initiatives/#special>)
- A macrophyte survey was conducted in 2015.
- MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks found pygmy whitefish—a rare, native cold water fish—in Tally in 2021
- There are no current NMLN citizen volunteers



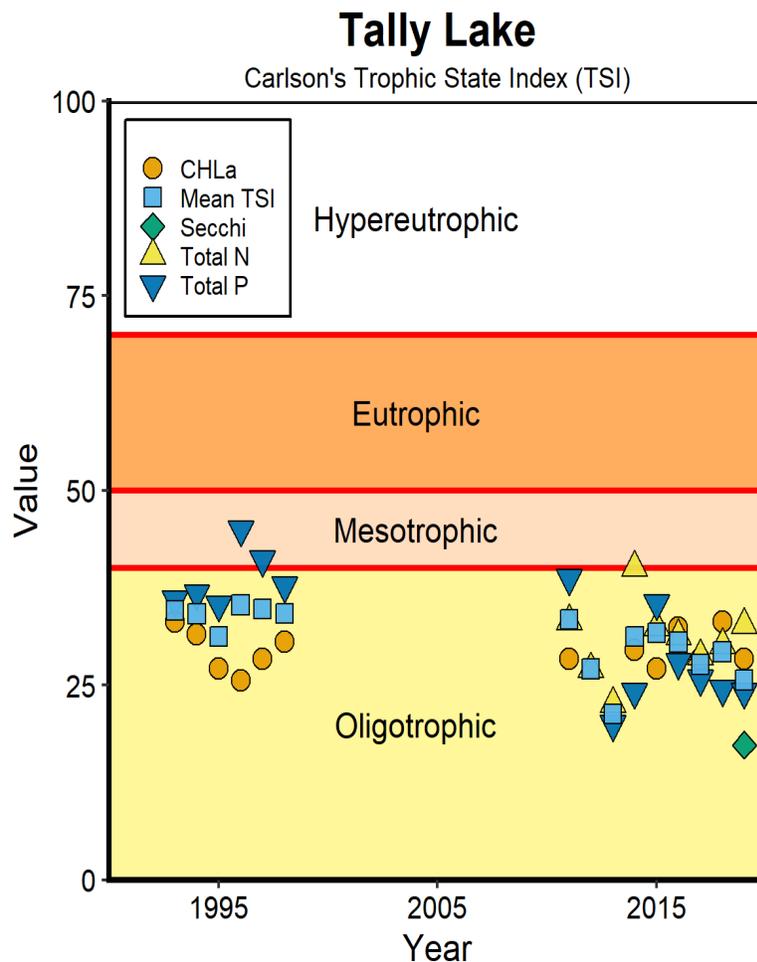
*Large woody debris floating in Tally Lake during peak runoff in spring 2011*

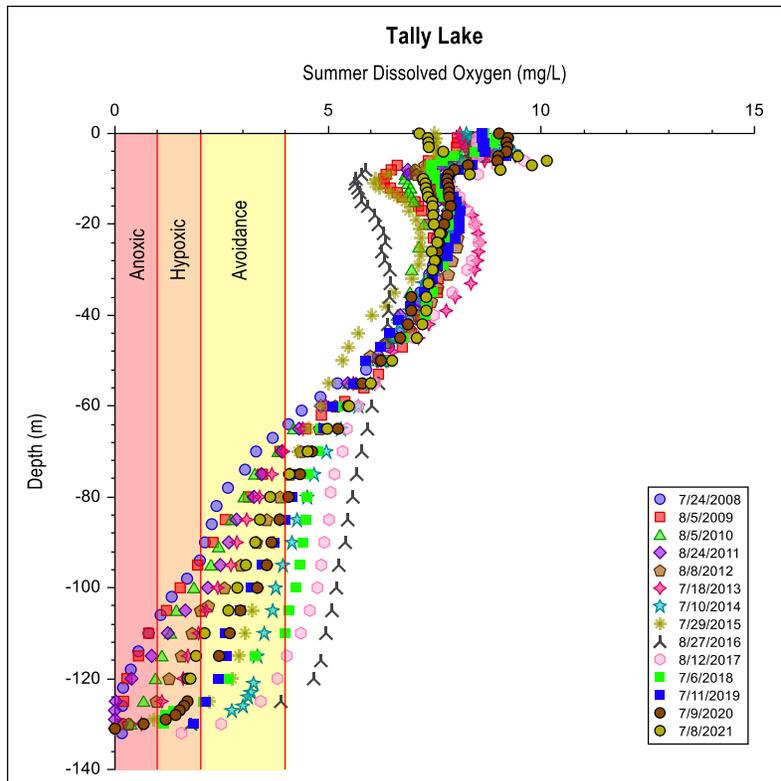
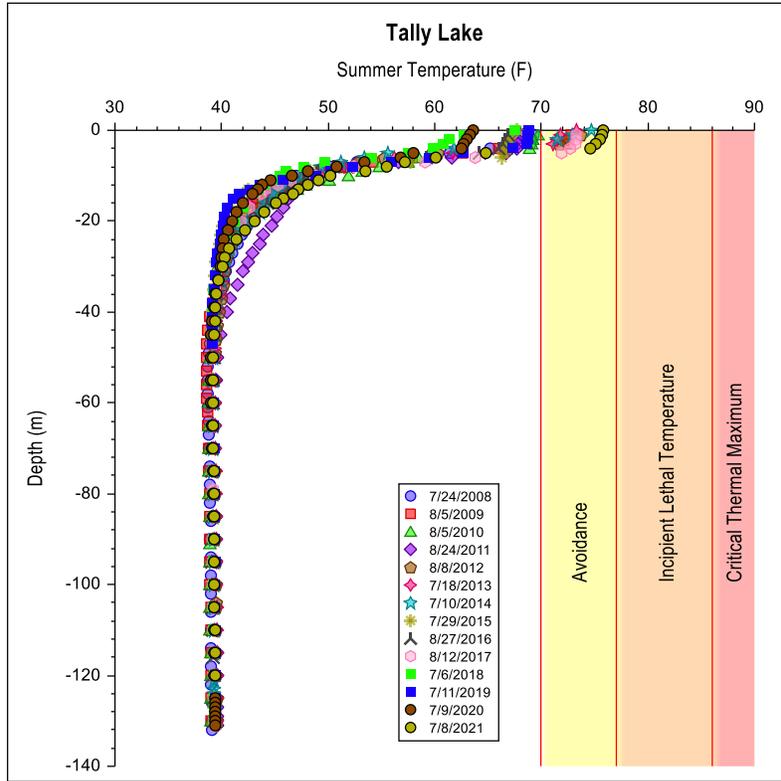


Location: 48.41216 N, 114.56009 W

## LAKE METRICS SUMMARY AND SCORES

Metric	Score	Description
Cold-water fish habitat	High	Temperature and oxygen profiles show that Tally Lake was stratified during summer sampling dates. Oxygen profiles indicate that the lake reaches avoidance concentration thresholds for salmonids at depths greater than 60 meters.
Nutrient Levels	Medium-Low	Tally Lake often ranks in the middle among large lakes (surface area >500 acres) for total phosphorus and total nitrogen, and ranks low for chlorophyll (a).
Nutrient Trend	Consistent	No nutrient trend is apparent
Trophic Status	Oligo-trophic	Carlson's Trophic Index trends show Tally Lake as consistently Oligotrophic.
Dreissenid Colonization Potential (Calcium)	Moderate	Tally Lake's 201/2016 average calcium concentration was 24.9 mg/L classifying it as a moderate risk for zebra mussel colonization. The 2012 alkalinity level was reported at 89 mg/L.
Known AIS infestations	None	







A macrophyte survey was conducted on Tally Lake in September 2015. A total of 82 sites were surveyed for plants/algae. No EWM was found in the survey but northern milfoil was the dominant plant indicating that Tally has favorable habitat for EWM.

