

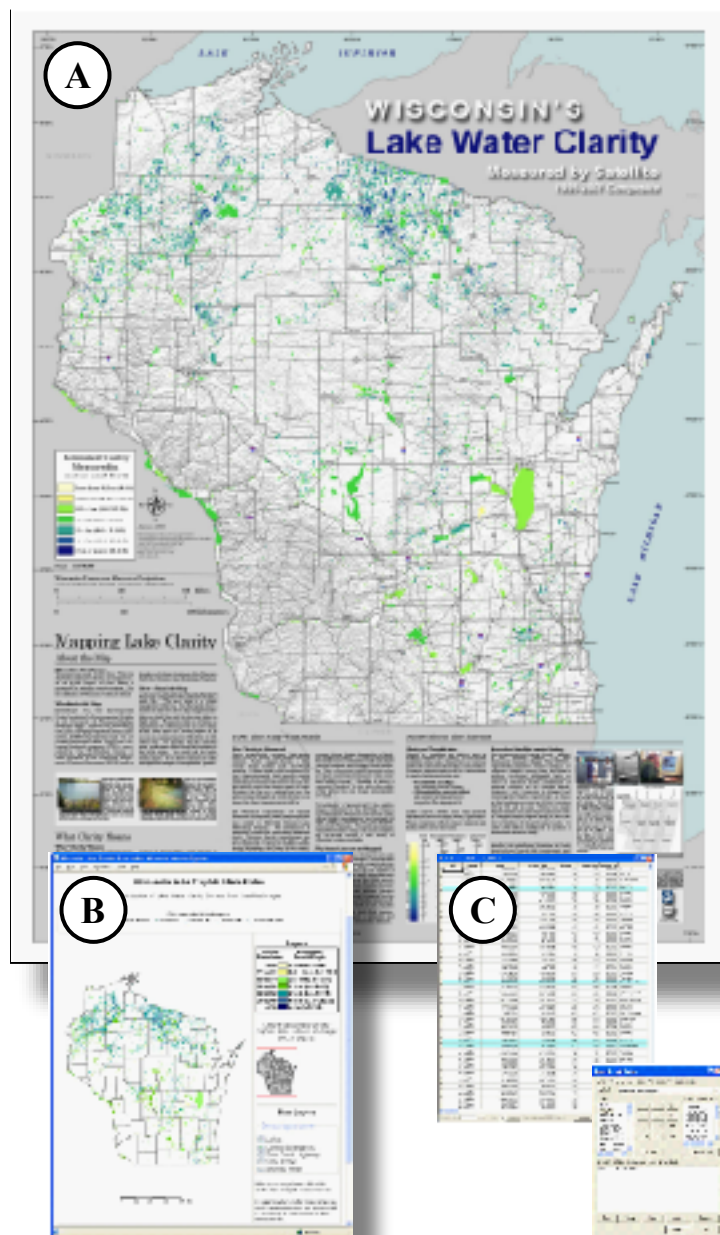
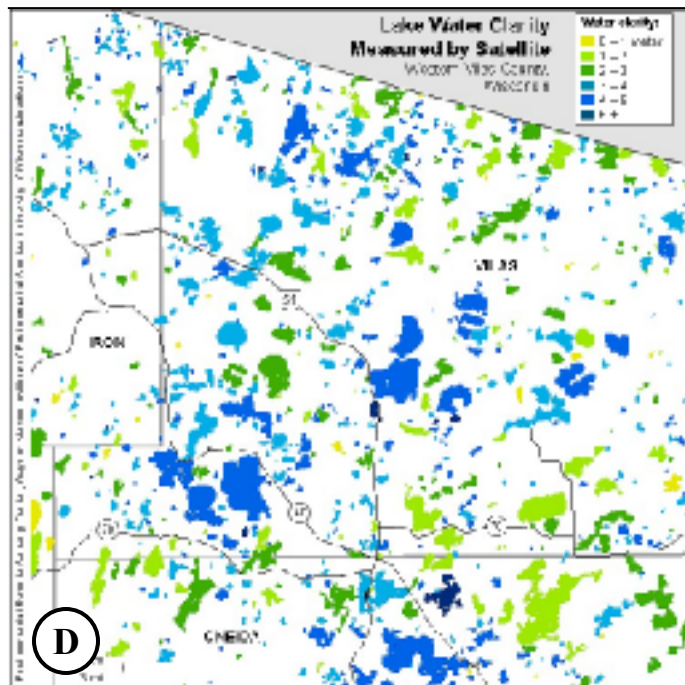
Wisconsin's Lake Water Clarity

Measured by Satellite 1999-2001 Composite

January 2003

Assisted by hundreds of volunteers around the state, Environmental Remote Sensing Center researchers and our cooperators have developed a method of assessing the water quality of Wisconsin's lakes from space.

Using images captured 438 miles above the earth, we have completed the first satellite-based inventory of the clarity of the largest 8,000 lakes in the state. The inventory is available to the public in map form on the Web, where it is possible to zoom in for a close look at your favorite lake or group of lakes.



Our researchers built regression models by comparing ground-based sampling with Landsat TM and ETM+ satellite measurements for the same lakes. From this we were able to estimate the clarity for all the large lakes in the state. The release of this first statewide map generated considerable attention from the press.

January 16, 2003



January 15, 2003



The end result of this three-year effort was (A) the first statewide map of water clarity of this detail; (B) an interactive web-based map with pan and zoom capabilities; (C) a searchable database of lake data; and (D) a gallery of graphics and satellite images. All of these products are available on our new website:

<http://www.lakesat.org>