

Development of a Selenium Standard for the Open Waters of Great Salt Lake

Great Salt Lake Water Quality Studies



The Great Salt Lake Ecosystem

- Largest saline lake in North America
- Largest terminal lake on the continent
- Fourth largest saline lake and terminal lake in the world
- Typically 3 to 5 times saltier than the ocean
- Moderates the local weather creating the lake effect producing large snowfalls in the mountains
- Designated part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
- Great Salt Lake wetlands represent 75% of wetlands in the State of Utah



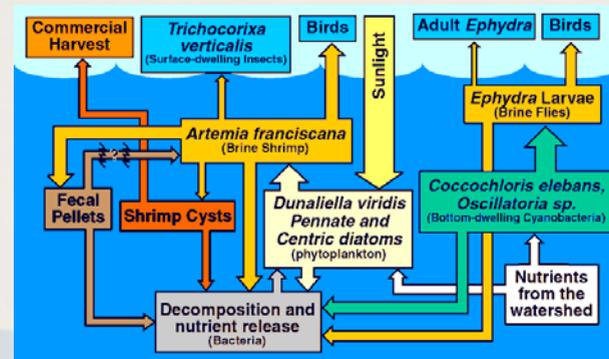
Great Salt Lake - Low Water 2002



Great Salt Lake Mud Flats [Antelope Island]

A Simple and Valuable Food Web

- Bacteria
- Algae
- Brine Shrimp and Brine Flies
- Millions of Shorebirds and Waterfowl



Supports

- Over 7.5 million birds, represented by 257 species, utilize the lake
- Up to 1 million Wilson's phalaropes (two thirds of world's population)
- More than 2 million eared grebes used the lake in 2007 (more than half the world's population)
- One of North America's three largest American white pelican breeding colonies
- Largest breeding population of California Gulls in the world

