Who's minding the watershed?

The groups listed below conduct ongoing monitoring programs in Grand Traverse Bay and its watershed.

Visit our comprehensive, interactive, on-line database at www.gtbay.org for data that has been collected in the Bay and its watershed by these groups and others. This database is constantly being updated, with both new and historical data being added on an ongoing basis.

■ **The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay: www.gtbay.org**

Stormwater, pathogens (beach monitoring and other), water quality, benthic invertebrates, shoreline surveys, etc.

■ **Inland Seas Education Association: www.GreatLakesEducation.org**

Fish populations, water clarity, sediments and benthos, basic chemistry as part of their Schoolship programming.

■ **Tip of the Mitt Watershed: www.watershedcouncil.org**

Basic water chemistry volunteer monitoring program in the Chain of Lakes.

■ **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: www.michigan.gov/deq**

The state monitors all major water bodies in the state on a rotating basis. The last time the bay was tested was in 2002.

■ **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians: www.gtb.nsn.us**

Ongoing air and water quality testing in Grand Traverse Bay, selected tributaries and Elk Lake.

In addition, there are a number of lake associations, including Three Lakes Association, Elk-Skegemog Association and other citizen groups that conduct periodic monitoring efforts throughout the watershed.

■ **Michigan Groundwater Stewardship program: (www.gtcd.org)** Drinking well water screening.

Volunteers from the Grand Traverse Power Squadron measure the clarity of East and West Bay at several locations throughout the summer using a secchi disk.

Above, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division staff conduct a fish sampling near Ranch Rudolf on the Boardman River. Periodic sampling of fish populations at this site helps assess the health of the stream.

Above, The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians monitors five sites on the bay, as well as the Elk Lake, Skekemog Lake, Belanger Creek and Northport Creek three times each year. Parameters include basic chemistry, clarity, sediment tests and others.