



Tell Congress Today: Restore Cormorant Management!

Our Oneida Lake fishery faces destruction. Here's how YOU can help.

THE PROBLEM: Congress has failed to set aside money for cormorant management! If they don't fix this now, it will kill a successful program to manage invasive, fish-eating cormorants on Oneida Lake and across New York State. Inaction could cost **1,400 local jobs and up to \$50 million in economic impact!** Read on to learn how **YOU can tell Congress to turn it around!**

You probably already know that, beginning in the 1980s, cormorants played havoc with Oneida Lake's fishery and the local economy. But starting in 2004, Congress found a good, cost-effective solution: a simple U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program that keeps cormorants off Oneida Lake and other upstate waters, stops them from breeding locally, and reduces their impact on the fishery. USDA management has been a huge success so far.

But now, Congress is threatening to throw it all away. Last year President Obama asked Congress to cut budgets and federal cormorant programs went on the chopping block. Other states like Arkansas and Virginia got it right and saved their programs, but so far freshman New York Congressman Dan Maffei (in whose district the Oneida Lake program was headquartered) has been unsuccessful. New York agencies and others are looking for ways to help, but they can't pick up the tab. **In 2010, there will be no federal cormorant hazing program on our waters!**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY: On behalf of our 3,000+ members and everyone who enjoys the lake, the Oneida Lake Association has asked Congressman Maffei to secure funding for this program. **Help Congress get the message!** A broad coalition of agencies and stakeholders—including Trout Unlimited, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and several state elected officials and Congressmen in neighboring districts—are working with us to make sure cormorant management doesn't get lost in the shuffle. Congress starts on the budget in a few weeks. **You can help now. Contact Congress and insist that they restore this program ASAP!**

HOW YOU CAN HELP: TELL CONGRESS TODAY TO RESTORE CORMORANT MANAGEMENT! Write, fax, e-mail or call your federal officials today to let them know that the budget they create this spring will determine the future of our fishing for generations to come. Turn the page for a guide to contacting your elected officials, or visit <http://votesmart.org> for a list by ZIP code.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP CONGRESS GET THE MESSAGE: The Oneida Lake Association, DEC, and other stakeholders are working hard to fight for cormorant management funding. Local New York legislators like David Valesky, David Townsend, Bill Magee, and Congressmen Dan Maffei, Michael Arcuri and Bill Owens are following the issue closely. **Contact your U.S. Congressmen and Senators today.** Tell them to restore federal dollars for cormorant management and **save our fishery.** Here are some points you can make:

- Before harassment started, Oneida Lake's world-class fishing was devastated by cormorants. Walleye and yellow perch populations are still far below historical averages. More cormorant damage will destroy the fishery forever—and anglers will hold Congress accountable!
- Cormorant management by USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services has set a national standard for success. Right here in New York, it preserves recreational angling and safeguards up to \$50 million in economic benefit and 1,400 jobs for a Congressional appropriation of just \$1,000,000 per year.
- The program is headquartered in the 25th Congressional District and has statewide benefits like management of geese at airports, starlings at dairy farms, and more.
- To save the program, Congressman Dan Maffei has to lead a coalition to advocate for it in the FY 2011 Agriculture Appropriations bill. New York's other Congressmen and Senators need to pull together to help him. Arkansas, Virginia, and other states have had success—**don't let New York be left behind again!**

WHO TO CONTACT:

If you live south or west of Oneida Lake (in the 25th Congressional District—where the program is headquartered) or anywhere else in New York, contact:

Congressman Dan Maffei, PO Box 7306, Syracuse, N.Y. 13261

Tel: (315) 423-5657. Fax: (315) 423-5669. Web site: <http://maffei.house.gov>

If you live east of Oneida Lake (in the 24th Congressional District), contact:

Congressman Michael Arcuri, 10 Broad St., Utica, N.Y. 13501

Tel: (315) 793-8146. Fax: (315) 798-4099. Web site: <http://arcuri.house.gov>

If you live north or southeast of Oneida Lake (in the 23rd Congressional District), contact:

Congressman Bill Owens, 120 Washington St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

Tel: (315) 782-3150. Fax: (315) 782-1291. Web site: <http://owens.house.gov>

If you live anywhere in New York contact:

Senator Charles Schumer, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel: (202) 224-6542. Fax: (202) 228-3027. Web site: <http://schumer.senate.gov>

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, 478 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel: (202) 224-4451. Fax: (202) 228-0282. Web site: <http://gillibrand/senate.gov>

Congressman Maurice Hinchey (member, House Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations)

2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel: (202) 225-6335. Fax: (202) 226-0774. Web site: <http://www.house.gov/hinchey>