



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Oneida Lake Cormorant Management

2017 Review and Plans for 2018

May 2, 2018

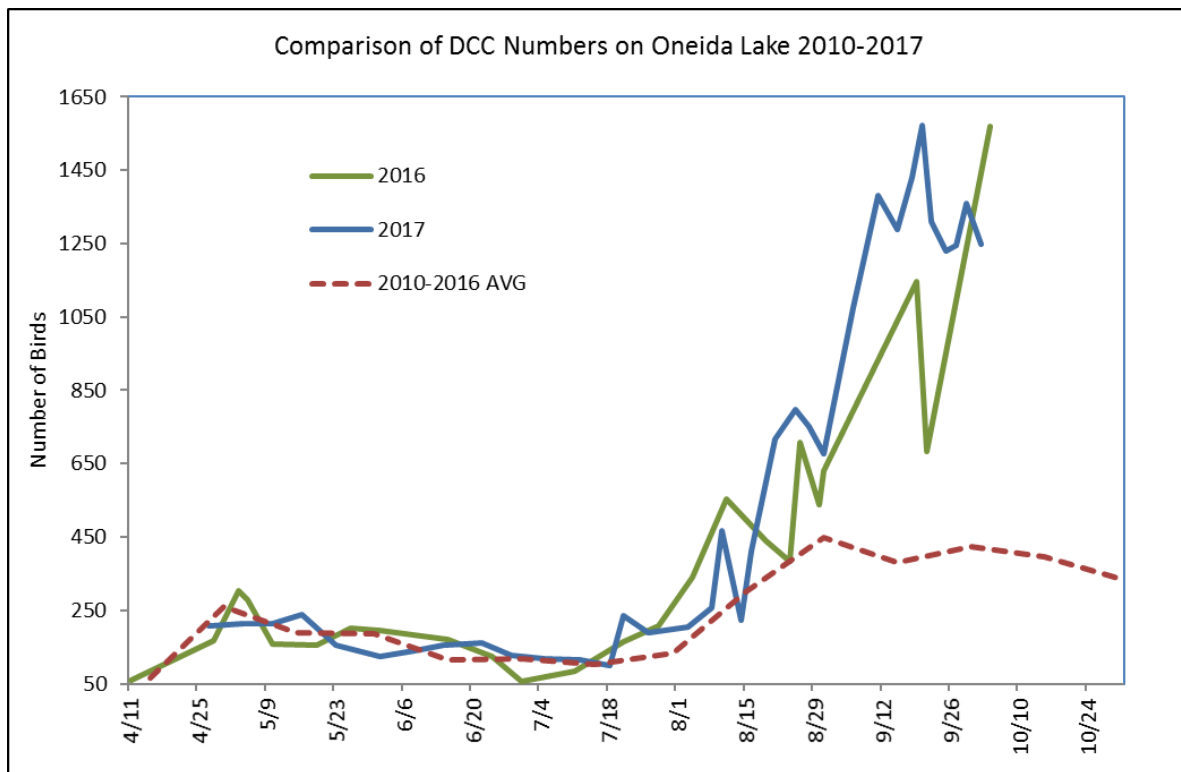
Cormorant Management

In 2016, USFWS Depredation Order Challenged in Court by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER):

- Resulted in loss of ability to conduct lethal control activities for most purposes in 2016
- In 2017 the Department requested and received a Scientific Collectors Permit from the USFWS to collect up to 220 cormorants/year as part of a long-term diet study with Cornell – Permit good through 2019
- For 2018 the USFWS has issued a new depredation order that authorizes lethal control for aquaculture facilities, protections of endangered and threatened species, but not for protection of wild fish stocks
 - As a result of this new order, some additional lethal control may occur on Long and Wantray Islands to protect common terns



2017 Count Summary



2017 Cormorant Counts by Zone

Zone 1 - Outlet to Dunham Island

Zone 2 - Dunham Isl. - Bernhards Bay (North of Buoy)

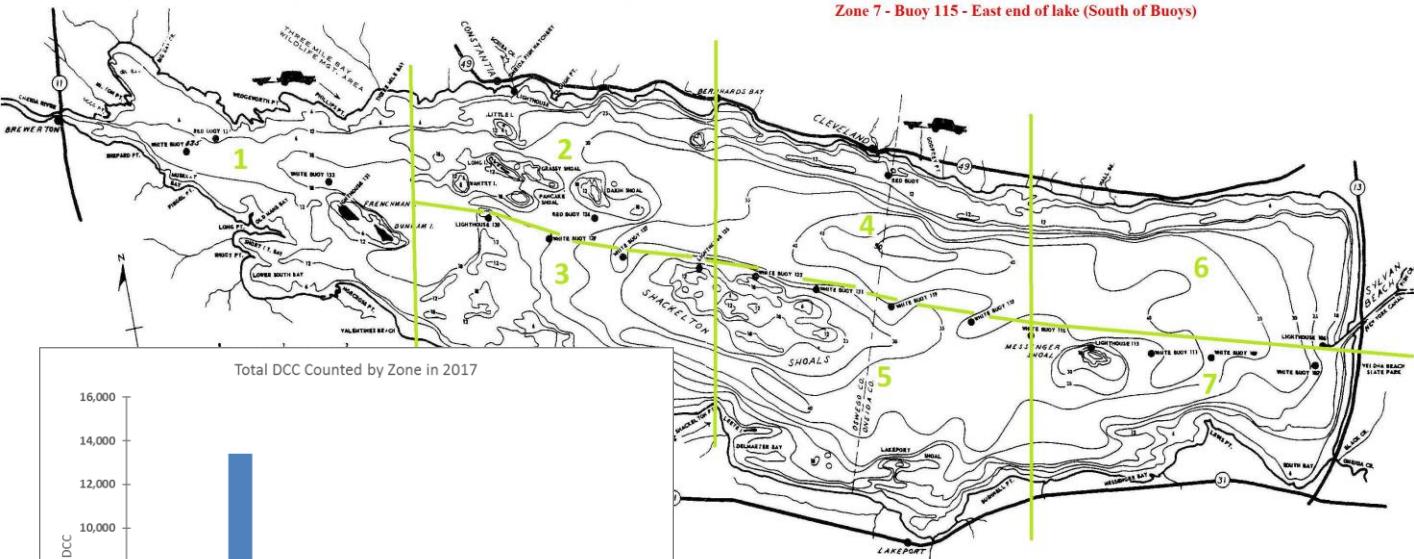
Zone 3 - Dunham Isl. - Shackleton Pt. (South of Buoy)

Zone 4 - Bernhards Bay - Buoy 115 (North of Buoy)

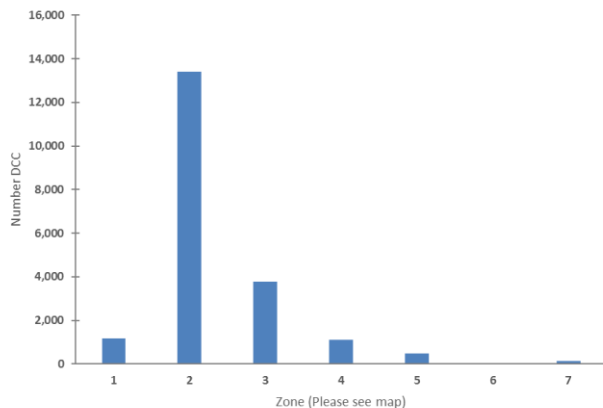
Zone 5 - Shackleton Pt. - Buoy 115 (South of Buoy)

Zone 6 - Buoy 115 - East end of lake (North of Buoy)

Zone 7 - Buoy 115 - East end of lake (South of Buoy)



Total DCC Counted by Zone in 2017



2017 Cormorant Diets

Cormorant Diets (by number; n = 220):

Gizzard Shad – 47% (20%)

Yellow Perch – 16% (36%)

Emerald Shiner – 15% (1%)

Round Goby – 12% (5%)

All others < 2%

21 walleye total (11%)



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2018 Cormorant Management Plan

Mid April – July:

One day per week ($\frac{1}{2}$ day count, $\frac{1}{2}$ day hazing) provided numbers stay at or near the target population level of 100 cormorants on the lake. Increase effort to two days per week if population exceeds target by more than ~50%.

August - September:

Two - Three days per week. Counts to be conducted Monday mornings and hazing to occur the remainder of the week.

October:

Counts only, one day per week.



Region 7 Fisheries Activities

Salmon River Land Acquisition:

Acquisition of National Grid lands along the Salmon River corridor from Altmar to Pulaski were completed last year after more than a decade of effort.

Approximately 2,800 acres are included in the land transfer and it is being managed as a State Forest with some special regulations. In addition we recently completed the purchase of nearly 1.6 miles of PFR from the Village of Pulaski.

Starting this summer we intend to utilize \$500K from a Natural Resources Damage Settlement to implement in-stream habitat improvement work and trail improvements in and along the Salmon River in the Altmar area.

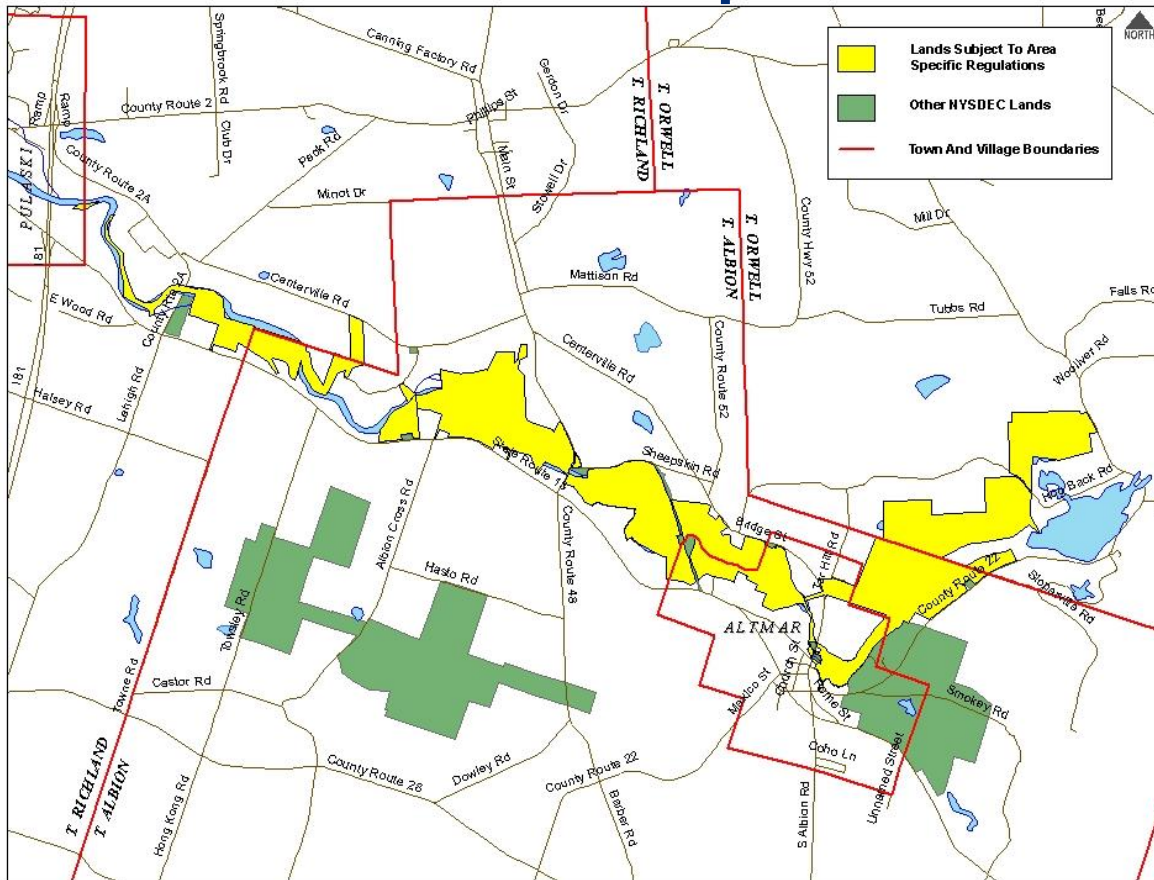
Salmon River Fisheries Management Plan:

A draft plan was recently completed and put out for public review and we are in the process of assessing comments that were submitted by the public.

The final plan, along with our anticipated 2018 Salmon River Workplan is expected to be available in July.



Salmon River Acquisition



Region 7 Fisheries Activities

Finger Lakes Angler Diary Cooperator Program:

Diary summaries for the 2017 fishing season on the four eastern Finger Lakes have recently been completed and are available on our website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27875.html>.

Help!!!! We need more anglers so if you fish the Finger Lakes please consider keeping a diary for us. Call the Cortland DEC office at: **607-753-3095 xt. 213**.

Sea Lamprey Control at Catherine Creek:

Later this spring the DEC Bureau of Fisheries, in cooperation with the USFWS, will be applying lampricide (TFM) to control invasive sea lamprey in Seneca Lake.

Cayuga Inlet Fishway Operations:

This spring staff passed more than 1,300 rainbow trout at the Fishway – the highest total since 1996.

