



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!



High Waters on Oneida Lake

~from OLA President, John Harmon

Those of you with residences on the lake know all too well that recent storms, combined with an unusually wet summer, have resulted in significant water level increases on Oneida Lake in the past few days. Here in Lower South Bay, lake levels have risen about two feet in the past 48 hours. I have removed about half my dock, with the remaining sections under two inches of water. My neighbors, too, have spent the weekend scurrying to get boats, docks, and jetskis out of the water. Fortunately, we have not had any serious winds to deal with, and, for the most part, boaters seem respectful of our property by staying off the water or staying well within the channel.

The OLA leadership urges you, too, to continue to show respect to fellow lakeside residents by limiting boat usage, and by observing no wake rules. Currently, law enforcement has now issued a no-wake zone for any area on the lake less than 500 feet from shore. Please be aware of how much damage waves can cause during high water events.

I know many of you are tracking past and future storms with your favorite weather app. Like you, I'm concerned about what Henri has in store for us. If you want to track water levels on our lake you can do that as well. Go to the Canal Corporation website: www.canals.ny.gov There you will find weather updates, notices of lock closures, current water levels, and much, much more.

You can also call 315-423-2094. You will hear a recording of the latest water levels for our region, plus an update on how water is being regulated

through dams and spillways. In fact, Howard Goebel, of the NYS Canal Corporation, has directly contacted OLA leadership to assure us that the Caughdenoy Dam is wide open, facilitating as much water as possible to leave the lake. He stated that dam will remain open through the near future. Goebel also assured us that the Canal Corporation and the local law enforcement agencies are in frequent contact regarding possible safeguards on the lake.

It is also important to keep in mind that following such storms as Fred and Henri, the lake holds many hazards, such as floating debris, including logs, dock parts, and lawn furniture. Keep an eye out! If you do encounter such a hazard, you can report it through the OLA website. Go to the Hazards to Navigation section and you will find a reporting form you can use.

As I am about to send this enews, I see that the rain has resumed once again!

As we all work together to weather these storms, please continue to remain courteous, look out for your neighbors, and remain safe on or near the water.

~John Harmon, OLA President

DEC Proposes Raising the Daily Limit for Walleye Oneida Lake



The OLA received this notice
directly from Steve Hurst,
Bureau Chief of Fisheries.

***New Population Estimates Reveal Need to Increase the
Possession Limit from Three to Five Fish Per Day***

***Public Comments on Proposed Changes
Accepted through Oct. 17***

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released proposed regulations to increase the daily possession limit of walleye in Oneida Lake from three fish per day to the statewide daily possession limit of five fish per day.

“The walleye population in Oneida Lake is at a record high and we no longer need

to maintain a reduced daily limit,” **said DEC Commissioner**

Basil Seggos. “This proposal encourages the increased harvest necessary to help sustain this outstanding fishery for years to come.”

Scientists have been assessing the Oneida Lake adult walleye population annually since the mid-1950s. The population fluctuated in abundance from more than one million fish in the 1980s, to fewer than 300,000 fish in the late 1990s. In 2000, DEC reduced the daily possession limit for this popular sport fish from five to three per day to increase abundance. By 2019, the adult walleye population rebounded to an estimated one million fish, and in 2020, increased even further to a record estimate of 1.2 million fish.

While this is good news for the current fishery, the burgeoning walleye population could potentially create negative impacts on the forage base in the lake, particularly on yellow perch. The proposed moderate increase in walleye harvest is necessary for the health of both the walleye and yellow perch fisheries. A recent survey indicates most anglers support the increase and more information on the [angler opinion survey](#) can be found on DEC’s website: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/tb1510.pdf.

The regulatory proposal is [available on the DEC website](#) for review and public comment through Oct. 17, 2021, and should be submitted via e-mail to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov with subject line "Oneida Lake Walleye Regulations" or via mail to the Inland Fisheries Section, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753.

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Send your questions and opinions to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

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Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.



OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.



[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

Report environmental violations.

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!