



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

Senate Bill 5266 Update

As you may have heard, Governor Hochul has vetoed Senate bill 5266 (*Allows for certain hunting or sale of fish and wildlife pursuant to Indian treaty rights*). This bill would have opened the door to the sale of fish taken from Oneida Lake. As an organization that was founded in 1945 in order to prevent the sale of walleyes, we are pleased that the Governor made this decision. As soon as knowledge of this bill appeared, the OLA Board of Directors immediately took action, such as writing a letter to urge the Governor to veto the bill. We also contacted many of our local Assembly members to voice our strong opposition.

Keep in mind that we remain committed to our partnerships with the First Nations with whom we share Oneida Lake. We look forward to sharing the stewardship of our lake with all of our citizens, regardless of nationality. **We also remain in unswerving opposition to the sale of walleyes from Oneida Lake.**

Although we are pleased with the current veto of this bill, your Board of Directors will remain vigilant regarding any follow-up compromises that may develop.

DEC Proposes Changes to Freshwater Fishing Regulations to Help Make Angling More Accessible and Enjoyable

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the release of a proposal to clarify and simplify sport fishing regulations based on public feedback and DEC fisheries manager reviews of rules associated with the management of the State's fisheries. The proposed rule-making also includes a limited number of water body-specific regulation changes to support improved management of these waters.

"These proposed changes will help to align freshwater fishing regulations with the State's current management objectives in a way that is easy for New Yorkers to understand and reflects their input. This proposal was driven by public comments and expert feedback, and represents DEC's continued commitment to making fishing more

enjoyable and accessible by eliminating unnecessary and outdated rules," said Commissioner Seggos.

Highlights of the proposal include:

- New rules for trout management in ponded waters, which consolidates 143 water body and 33 county-wide special regulations into a new statewide regulation that permits anglers to harvest five fish per day, only two of which can be greater than 12 inches in length.
- Removing the statewide closed season restriction on lake trout and Atlantic salmon. Keeping the season open year-round consolidates 24 lake trout and 33 Atlantic salmon water body-specific regulations into statewide regulations consistent with current management practices, as over the years a greater number of these waters have been open all year under special regulations.
- Providing consistency in opening and closing fishing season dates for sport fish. DEC currently uses a mixed approach for season dates. Some seasons begin on a specific date, while others start on a designated Saturday. Based on results of an angler poll conducted earlier this year, DEC is proposing that all sport fish seasons begin and end on specific dates. Notable changes to statewide opening dates are:
 - May 1 for walleye, northern pike, pickerel, and tiger muskellunge;
 - June 1 for muskellunge; June 15 for black bass; and
 - Aligning special regulations with new season dates for these species.
- **Eliminating the current three-fish-per-day daily walleye limit in Oneida Lake and reverting to the statewide five-fish-per-day limit due to the abundant adult walleye population.**
- Establishing a no-limit, all-year season and 12-inch-minimum length restriction for walleye on Skaneateles Lake to suppress this introduced species, which has the potential to negatively impact the lake's high-quality trout and salmon fishery.
- Banning snatching and spearing in select waters.

Remember: These are proposals which have not yet been approved as regulations!

To view the entire proposal, go to:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/124339.html>

New LEDs for Two Oneida Lake Lighthouses

The New York Power Authority and New York State Canal Corporation unveiled the first lighting projects celebrating iconic infrastructure along New York State's historic Erie Canal.

The new lighting, through the state's *Reimagine the Canals* initiative, is the first of several planned lighting projects to illuminate historic pieces of New York's canalway infrastructure, both celebrating its history and inviting New Yorkers to enjoy the outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities that lie along the banks of the canal.

The new LED lighting features will illuminate . . . two Oneida Lake lighthouses—one in Brewerton . . . and another at Verona Beach. The Verona Beach Lighthouse, a twin of Oswego County's Brewerton Lighthouse, is located along the eastern shore of Oneida Lake in the town of Verona. The lighthouse was completed in 1917, as part of the Barge Canal, and guides mariners to the eastern



entrance of the Erie Canal on Oneida Lake. The Brewerton Lighthouse is located along the north bank of the Erie Canal and Oneida River in the Town of Hastings in Oswego County. It was also completed in 1917, as part of the Barge Canal. The Brewerton Lighthouse guides vessels to the western entrance of the Canal on Oneida Lake. [In fact, there is a third lighthouse in the series, located on Frenchman's Island].

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An illuminated view of the Brewerton Lighthouse.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Aimee (from Facebook).

DEC Names a New Fisheries Manager for Region 7

Scott Prindle has been named the new Region 7 Fisheries Manager. OLA had a great working relationship with Scott's predecessor, Dave Lemon, and is looking forward to continuing this great working relationship with Scott. We want to take this opportunity to welcome Scott to his new position!

Scott grew up in Hamilton, NY and received an AAS in Natural Resources Conservation from Morrisville College followed by a Bachelors degree in Biology from SUNY Oswego. He then obtained a Master's Degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Science from SUNY-ESF. He has been a DEC Aquatic Biologist since 2004, starting out first on Lake Ontario at the Cape Vincent Fisheries Station then transferring to Cortland in 2005. He was responsible for Oswego (including the Salmon River) and Chenango counties along with overseeing the regional fisheries access program. Scott's first job out of college was working at the Cornell Biological Field Station on Oneida Lake, with fellow Board member Ed Mills, so Scott has a great working knowledge of Oneida Lake's fishery. Scott also spends some time fishing Oneida Lake during both the open water and ice fishing seasons. Scott will now be overseeing DEC Fishery Program for Region 7's 9 County area, including Oneida Lake.

We look forward to working with Scott!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**The Board of Directors
wishes you a Happy and
Healthy New Year!**

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\$8 annually

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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.**



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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.](#)

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Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

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