

New York State



ONEIDA

FISH CULTURAL STATION

- Located on north shore of Oneida Lake in the Village of Constantia.
- Primary function is obtaining walleye progeny for NYS.
- Secondary production includes Lake Sturgeon, Tiger Musky, and others.
- **Fish are stocked across NYS into public waters**, not just Oneida Lake.
- 18K sq ft Hatchery was built in 1992, including an office, visitor center, rearing room, research room and miscellaneous rooms for mechanical equipment.
- Water source is Scriba Creek, gravity fed to hatchery and has the widest range of temperature variation of any NYS Hatchery.
- Open daily April 1-Sept 1 8am-3:00pm and tours are available.

Walleye Run Dates

2026 April 1 – April 14

2025 April 3 – 11, plus 14th

2024 March 21 – April 5

2023 April 4 – 12

2022 March 31 – April 7

2021 March 31 – April 7



Collection Numbers Past 3 Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Walleye Collected -	11,593	14,465	13,322
Females Used -	4,141	4,958	3,704
Eggs Collected -	262 M	260 M	165 M
Nets Set -	7,9,11,10	7,9,10	7,9,11,13
Date Nets Set -	3/20	3/30	4/1



Fish sorting

- Fish from the nets are sorted daily, separating males and “hard” or “ripe” females
- Females from previous day that were “hard” are sorted each day



Egg Stripping and Fertilizing Station

Adults are hand stripped into a bowl using a ratio of 2 males to 1 female.



So many small females!

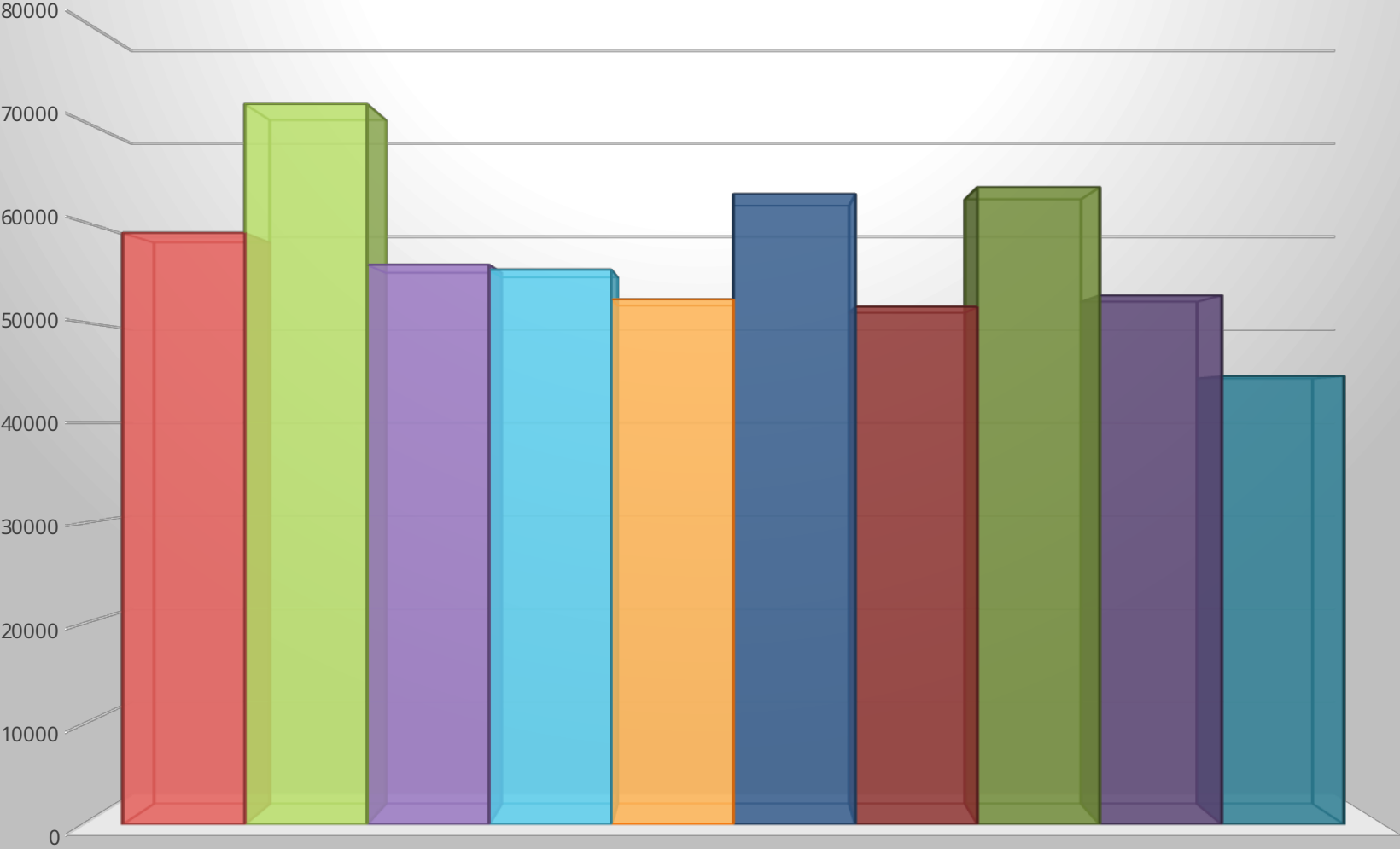


Egg Treatment Station

- Eggs are mixed with tannic acid to remove the adhesive coating, then rinsed and typically water hardened for 1 hour.
- While water hardening, they are disinfected with an iodophor.



Eggs per Female



■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025 ■ 2026

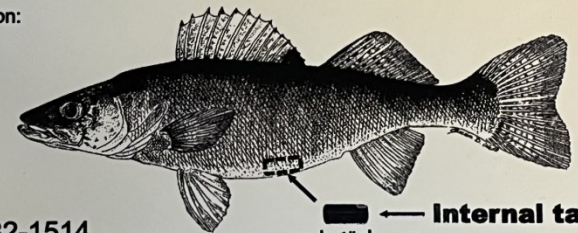
The Cornell Surgery Center



Oneida Lake Walleye Movement Study Please Save & Return Internal Tags

Cornell University Biological Field Station is conducting a 4-year telemetry study on Walleye movement in Oneida Lake to better understand habitat use and improve population estimates

For more information:



Call: 607-882-1514
Email: oneidatags@gmail.com



Cornell University



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Egg Incubation

- 12 Total Egg Racks aka “Batteries” that can hold 60 jars each.
 - Used 7 this year with total egg jars this year of 370.
- Each jar has its own valve set to 1-2 gpm. Due to fine sediment passing thru the filter and accumulation inside the pipelines, water flow thru the valves can be slowed or completely blocked.
 - Formalin is used to control fungus. Survival was 91.8%!



Fry Stocking

- Eggs average incubate time is 21 days.
- Eggs began hatching last week and will be finished this week.
- The fry are stocked immediately after hatching or transferred to other hatcheries via truck.
- Oneida Lake was stocked via Scriba Creek due to boat issues.



Lake Sturgeon

- Eggs collected from wild fish from the St. Lawrence River and delivered to Oneida Hatchery and the Genoa National Hatchery in Wisconsin
- Eggs are incubated in McDonald jars with 1-2 qpm flow.

Oneida Hatchery Stocks...

- Oneida Lake – 500 fish
- Cayuga Lake – 2500 fish
- Genesee River – 1000 fish

6 other NY waters are stocked with the fish raised at Genoa.

No Sturgeon at Oneida this year due to anticipated hot weather



Tiger Muskellunge

- DEC decided to try making our own tiger musky this year instead of getting fry from Pennsylvania.
- Target was reduced to 34,150 going into 9 bodies of water.
- Currently have 36,000 fry on hand. I anticipate stocking the fish early due to warm water.



Species To Be Reared at Oneida Hatchery 2026

- Walleye – 165 million fry
- Tiger Musky – 34,150

For all things DEC, go to www.dec.ny.gov

...and check out the DEC Youtube page for great videos!

Other Hatchery News

2 Wells have been drilled on the property and are currently being developed.

New 3-Tank Stocking Truck!



Both the Assistant Manager (Andy Domachowske) and Manager (Bill Evans) are eligible for retirement.

Andy has said he will retire spring 2027.

