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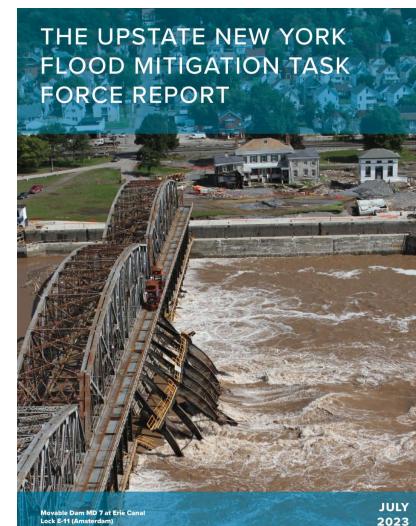


Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force and the OLA

"As extreme weather impacts our communities on a more frequent basis, the projects moving forward will improve our state's resiliency and will protect the residents who live within the Mohawk and Oswego River Basins from future high-water events." This statement from the Chairperson of the Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force outlines the next steps in the action plans recommended in a report handed to the Governor in July of 2023. As OLA Vice-President, I represented the voice Central New Yorkers, and especially Oneida Lake residents, on this significant Task Force, under the direction of the NYS Canal Corporation. On June 11, I attended a meeting in Rome to participate in the next round of discussions—the action plans resulting from the recommendations.

It was announced at this meeting that New York State has aside millions of dollars for the funding of some of the projects recommended by the Flood Mitigation Task Force. The initial project is to develop computer modeling to help understand the dynamics of the Oswego River basin (including Oneida Lake), as well as the Mohawk River basin. "Numeric models will provide state and federal agencies with a common digital framework on which flood mapping and mitigation strategies can be developed for each basin, allowing them to prioritize interventions and investments," stated the planners.

For Oneida Lake residents and visitors, it is important to note that several structures in our area are specifically designated for study. For example, Erie Canal Lock 24 (in Baldwinsville) will be studied for possible dam modifications for Flood Mitigation. The analysis will provide an estimate of high-water level reductions for various modifications to the dam.



Another significant feature of the study concerns the Rule Curve that the Canal Corporation uses to keep Oneida Lake at optimal levels. The OLA remains extremely vigilant about the application of this Rule Curve. As we all know, even a few inches of higher or lower lake level can have a meaningful impact on our docks, shorelines, and boat launches. In a conversation following the meeting, an official with the Canal Corporation assured me that they planned to leave our Rule Curve alone. That is certainly good news.

State senator John Mannion commented on this most recent work of the Task Force: “Properly managing the Oswego and Mohawk River Basins by enacting the recommendations of the Flood Mitigation Task Force is an all-of-government effort, because homeowners and businesses deserve solutions to the property and economic damage caused by rising waters. I’m proud to have sponsored the legislation enabling this important work followed by additional legislation for advanced mapping and establishing a local stakeholder group that keeps local voices involved in the process.”

Assemblyman Al Stirpe added: “The number one recommendation from the report is to redo all the flood maps, as a lot has changed since the 1980s. Additionally, we created a stakeholder group for the Oswego River Basin to coordinate the flow of water during extreme weather events in an effort to prevent flooding.”

We can assure our members that the voice of the Oneida Lake Association will be heard at each of the meetings. We will have consistent representation at these stakeholder group meetings.

~John Harmon, OLA Vice-President

For a complete view of the Press Release, click [here](#).

<https://edge.sitecorecloud.io/newyorkpowe2bd0-canalsf418-productionbf60-c829/media/Files/Press-Releases/2024/Upstate-Flood-Mitigation-Task-Force-Announces-Efforts-to-Mitigate-Flooding-Throughout-the-Mohawk-and.pdf>

Water Chestnut Weed Pulls

The OLA Directors continue to remain vigilant about invasive species in our lake. We are pleased to announce that once again we will host a series of weed pulls to eliminate the threat of water chestnuts. Currently, we have four weed pulls scheduled, under the direction of Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil. July 7 at Metzger's Pond on the north shore July 19 in Big Bay

Date to be determined at Johnnie's/Oneida Lake Marina



And one more, location and date to be determined.

As the dates approach, we will post details. Come and join us! It's fun and worthwhile!

Contact Director Cerro-Reehil for more information.

Free Fishing Days! June 29-30

During the last full weekend in June (June 29-30), anyone aged 16 and older can fish the fresh waters of New York State, and no license is required! (Kids under 16 can always fish for free.)

All other freshwater fishing regulations still apply.

Take advantage of this perfect opportunity to try fishing for the first time or take someone else fishing. Don't have equipment? No problem. You can borrow fishing gear for the day from one of many statewide providers through the [I FISH NY](#) program, which seeks to increase fishing participation and awareness of the many outstanding statewide fishing opportunities. The website also provides links to other fish education programs, free fish clinics and guides, as well as "How to" videos to get you started. With more than 7,500 lakes and ponds and 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, there are plenty of places to try freshwater fishing in New York State. So visit our ["Places to Fish"](#) webpages for ideas on places to go. World-class fishing is right around the corner!

Youth Fishing Derby Reminder

OLA Director Matt Kazmierski has kicked off our First Annual OLA Youth Fishing Derby.

May 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Eligibility:

Up to 15 yrs old

Must be child or grand child of OLA Member

Rules

1. Fish must be caught on Oneida Lake east of Route 81 Bridge and tributaries up to first impossible barrier

2. Fish must be caught during the regular season for each species.

3. The longest fish in the following categories will receive a trophy and



fishing prize package: walleye, yellow perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, pickerel, non-gamefish (carp, drum, catfish, etc..)

Entries must submit the following information to
president@oneidalakeassociation.org :

- One photo of the fish with the child and one with the fish on a ruler with the length clearly visible
- Date of catch, length of catch, species.
- Name and age of child, name of OLA member.
- Entries must be submitted by an adult 18 years or older.
- All Entries must be received by December 31, 2024.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates.

My First Oneida Fish

Speaking of youth fishing, don't forget to download and print our "My First Oneida Fish" award. Send us a photo of your youngster holding the award and we'll try to include it on our newsletter!



Here's six year old Braydon holding our award. This great image was sent in by his proud grandfather, Dennis Edwards.

Dennis writes: "Not his first fish, but several firsts that day. My grandson and new fishing buddy!"



This Fourth of July, the OLA Directors thank everyone who strives to keep our country strong, prosperous, and free!

Have a safe Holiday!

The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.

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

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

Donate



Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

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



[OLA Website](#)

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

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