



Oneida Lake Association, Inc.—PO Box 3536—Syracuse, NY 13220
It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!

Oneida Lake Association Position on Water Level Management

The natural resources, riparian property, and boating of Oneida Lake are irreplaceable and valuable assets. The people who value these assets have benefited greatly from **successful past practices in water level management** that the New York State Canal Corporation put in place since the mid-2000s.

Therefore, the Oneida Lake Association adopts the position that future water level management in the Oneida Lake watershed and the greater Oswego River basin should continue to abide by these same, successful strategies:

1. Water level management should promote the health of the Oneida Lake ecosystem and minimize spring flood damage by maintaining lake levels between 368.5' BCD (current winter draw-down level) and 373' (reported flood stage).
2. Strategies to manage Oneida Lake levels must not involve lowering Oneida Lake to any elevation less than 368.5'; must not involve removal of any natural shoals that may fix the winter water elevation in Oneida Lake; and must consider possible adverse effects on both Oneida Lake residents and residents downriver from the Caughdenoy Dam.
3. Water level management strategies should prioritize navigation (both inter-lake, via the Canal; and intra-lake, via trips from private docks and marinas on Oneida Lake). This should be accomplished by driving levels toward the high side of allowable levels from June through November, in particular by maintaining levels slightly above the maximum range of the current Oneida Lake rule curve during these months. This approach, which has been implemented since the mid-2000s, has proven to provide a buffer against drought during the summer and fall months without adverse effects. Going forward, summer and fall levels should continue to be managed toward the following targets:
 - a. 371.5' +/- .5' in June, July, and August;
 - b. 371' +/- .5' in September, October, and November; and
 - c. Natural winter draw-down levels, no lower than 368.5', starting Dec. 1.

These past practices in water level management have proven beneficial to summer and fall navigation, especially in October and November when anglers and waterfowl hunters are Oneida Lake's most numerous users. These practices have not caused adverse effects on people or properties on Oneida Lake or downstream.

Adopted unanimously by the Oneida Lake Association, Inc. Board of Directors and duly entered into the minutes of the Board's regular meeting of June 12, 2023.