

POSITION PAPER:

Walleye Fingerling Stocking

Date: September 13, 1999



Oneida Lake Association, Inc.—P.O. Box 3536—Syracuse, NY 13220

It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!

**Subject: Walleye Fingerling Stocking and
The Three Fish, Eighteen Inch Regulation**

The Board met with DEC and Cornell University representatives on several occasions during 1998 and 1999 in order to be updated about existing walleye and other fish populations on Oneida Lake. Information was also provided to us about the Department's future management strategies, particularly the introduction of walleye fingerlings to improve population numbers and to protect New York's most viable broodstock.

It is our understanding that the decision to place fingerlings in Oneida Lake rests with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and that the Department may decide as soon as May or June of 2000 to proceed with fingerling stocking. It is also our understanding that, the Department cannot introduce walleye fingerlings in any water in New York State unless a 3 fish 18" regulation is in place for those waters.

By vote of the Board of Directors on Monday, September 13, 1999, the Association supports the introduction of fingerlings into Oneida Lake. However, we do not support the requirement that the initiation of a fingerling stocking program be contingent on a 3 fish per day 18" size regulation. We believe the Department has the expertise and training to make decisions regarding the fishery in Oneida Lake and defer to them on the matter of more protective size and bag limits.