



Lake Sturgeon Restoration

in the Oneida – Oswego Drainage

Cornell University Biological Field Station

Oneida Lake, NY



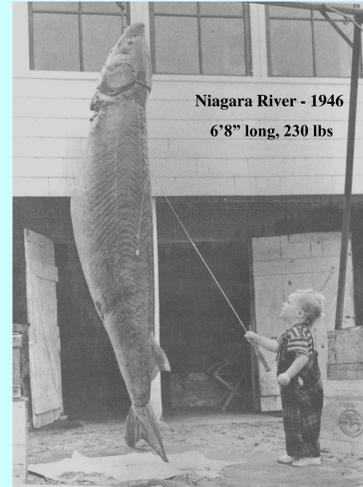
How many were stocked?

Lake Sturgeon Stocking History, Oneida Lake

Year	Number Stocked	Age/Size at Stocking
1995	5,000	Age-0 (10")
1996	500	Age-0 (7")
	50	Age-1 (22")
1998	287	Age-1 (22")
	100	Age-1 (14.5")
1999	300	Age-0 (8.5")
	20	Age-4 (35.5")
2000	300	Age-0 (7.4")
2003	368	Age-0 (9.2")
2004	1,200	Age-0 (7.4")



17 lb sturgeon caught in Oneida Lake, Spring 1973
(From the Oneida Lake Bulletin, Summer 1973)



Niagara River - 1946
6'8" long, 230 lbs



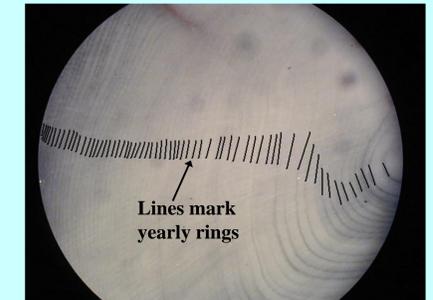
Columbia River, Oregon



A CATCH OF STURGEON, COLUMBIA RIVER

How long do they live?

Biologists can tell how old a sturgeon is by looking at a section of their fin ray. When magnified, the bone has annual rings like a tree. Some sturgeon can live to be over 150 years old!



How big do they get?

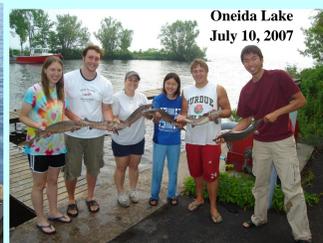
Lake sturgeon are stocked at 6-8". In 5 years they are 35" long, and in 10 years they are over 4 feet long. The largest Oneida Lake sturgeon in 2007 was 5 feet long and weighed 62 pounds! Sturgeon in the Great lakes have been caught up to 7 feet long and >230 lbs.



Oneida Hatchery



Oneida Lake
May 15, 2007



Oneida Lake
July 10, 2007



Oneida Lake, June 19, 2003

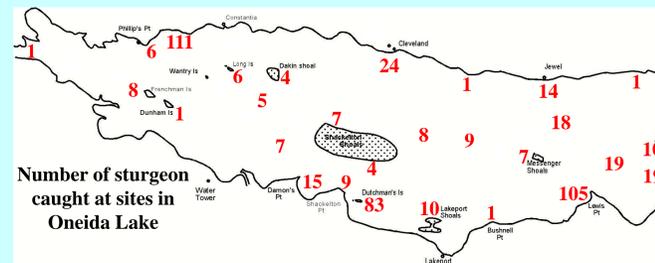


Niagara River
Jan. 3, 2005
77" long, 75 yrs old



Oneida Lake, May 14, 2007

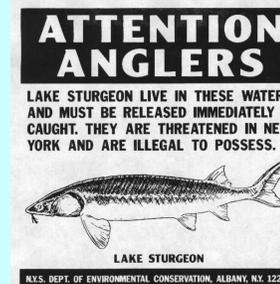
Where have they been found?



Oneida Lake sturgeon have also been reported from:

- > Oneida River - Caughdenoy Dam
- > Oneida River - Three Rivers area
- > Onondaga Lake, Cross Lake
- > Oswego River - Phoenix
- > Oswego River - Minetto
- > Mohawk River - Erie Canal Rome
- > Mohawk River - Lock 9 Rotterdam
- > Fish Creek
- > Lake Ontario - Southwicks Beach
- > Seneca River - Baldwinsville

What can I do to help?

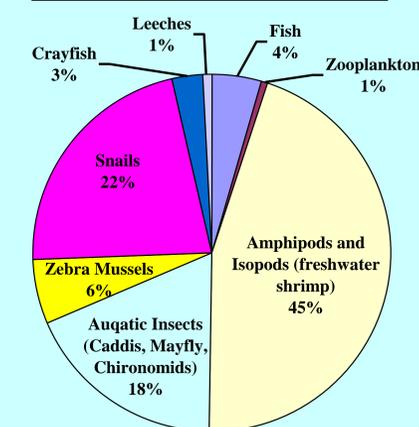


- > Report any sightings of spawning fish in tributaries to DEC or Cornell Univ.
- > Report tagged fish if caught by calling the number on the tag
- > Join the Oneida Lake Association and encourage support of sturgeon programs
- > Urge fisheries managers to continue restoration programs

What do they eat?

Sturgeon are bottom feeders. They eat a wide variety of bottom dwelling creatures including aquatic insects, snails, and mussels. Fish less than 35" eat mostly amphipods (freshwater shrimp) and snails. Larger fish feed on zebra mussels, in addition to aquatic insects and snails.

Fish less than 900 mm (35")



Fish larger than 900 mm (35")

