

WALLEYE (*Sander vitreus*)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Abundant**



A walleye in its natural environment
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/division/yow/images/walleye.jpg>



Walleye angling is popular on Oneida Lake: Photo courtesy of Captain Tony Buffa



Line drawing of a walleye

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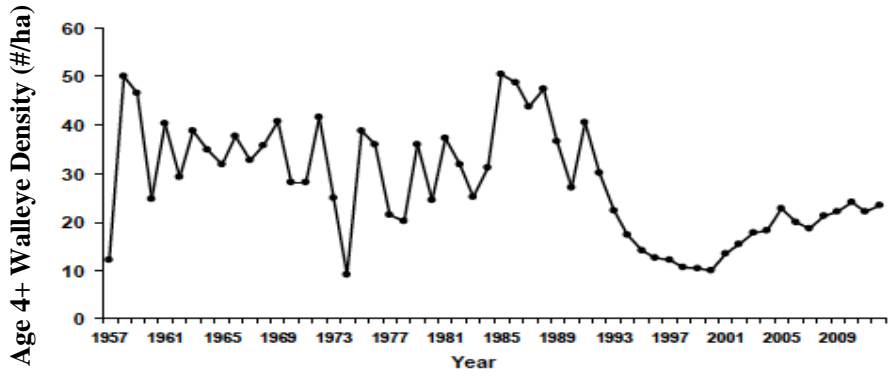
Edited June 2013

- Oneida Lake is a premier walleye fishery
- Local population affected by cormorants
- Large gamefish that prefers murky water

Walleye are a member of the perch family, and may grow to 30 inches long and weigh as much as 8 pounds in Oneida Lake. They have yellowish bodies that tend to be longer and narrower than those of other perch species. Walleye have large canine teeth, and use these to eat gizzard shad, yellow perch, and other small fish.

Walleye have large, sensitive eyes (as seen in the photos), and prefer to live in low light conditions. Because of their large eyes, walleye are able to see well under low light and in turbid water, and have an advantage over other fish.

Over the past 50 years, Oneida Lake's walleye population has ranged in number from as few as 190,000 to over 1,000,000 individuals (see graph below). In recent years, the population has been at the low end of this range because of seasonally low baitfish populations, and because of a growing cormorant population. To help the walleye population rebound, state and federal agencies began a cormorant control program, and the local cormorant population is limited to 100 adult individuals.



In addition to the naturally reproducing walleye, the state Department of Environmental Conservation operates a fish hatchery on Oneida Lake. Each year, this hatchery stocks 150 million walleye fry to bolster the walleye fishery.