

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

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**Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Lake Ontario
Beaches and Riparian Property**

In this issue:

- **DEC Announces State of Lake Ontario Meetings-- Do they now agree with homeowners!**
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Recently, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation published an announcement about upcoming public meetings regarding the state of Lake Ontario.

The public will have the opportunity to learn about the state of Lake Ontario fisheries at public meetings to be held in Monroe, Niagara and Oswego counties in March, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today (Feb 25, 2016). Lake Ontario and its embayments and tributaries support thriving populations of fish, including a variety of trout and salmon, bass, walleye, yellow perch and panfish.

“Lake Ontario and its tributaries provide world-class angling opportunities” Acting Commissioner Seggos said. “Under Governor Cuomo’s NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, Lake Ontario’s high-quality fishereis and associated economic benefits are thriving.”

Based on the statement above, it appears that the NYSDEC may be inferring that the current plan of lake-level regulation may be the driving force in improving the Lake and its attached water bodies fishery improvement.

Or rather, maybe the NYSDEC agrees with the late Cornell Professor Mark Bain’s assessment of the current plan’s effect on the near-shore environment.

“Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence (LOSL) River Study environmental studies primarily looked at wetlands and ignored or lightly treated other important habitats, especially shallow shoreline habitats.” The more comprehensive estimates by Cornell researchers indicated that these habitats would be negatively impacted by Plan B and BV7/Plan 2014 (since BV7/Plan 2014 are based on Plan B). “Plan 58DD was the best approach overall for the environment moving forward. Plan 58DD tends to favor birds, fish nesting and early survival, and wetlands. The water management plan that emerged from application experience in the last half century, Plan 1958DD, appears to be a good choice for maintaining most environmental resources and harming few.”¹

Additionally, as always, the LORA website has all past newsletters posted at:
<http://www.loranet.org/> and <http://www.loranet.org/levelerarchive/pastissues.htm>

¹ Bain, Singkran, Mills, “Integrated Ecosystem Assessment: Lake Ontario Water Management”, PLoS ONE www.plosne.org, Nov 2008, Vol. 3, Issue 11, e3806 page 11