

REGION 9, Abby Snyder, Regional Director Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor Joe Martens, Acting Commissioner

www.dec.ny.gov



**For Release:** IMMEDIATE March 14, 2011

Contact: Megan Gollwitzer (716) 851-7201

## **OLCOTT FISHING PIER IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED** Repair Work Improves Site's Accessibility, Adds Amenities

In cooperation with the Town of Newfane, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the completion of renovation work at the Olcott Fishing Pier, located at the mouth of 18 Mile Creek in the Town of Newfane.

"We are pleased to announce the completion of improvement work on the Olcott Fishing Pier," said DEC Regional Director Abby Snyder. "Lake Ontario provides some of the best freshwater fishing in the world, and we hope that the updates made to this popular fishing site will help anglers to enjoy the area's tremendous fishery resources."

Improvements to the Olcott Pier site included resurfacing of the parking area, access trail and a section of the east pier, as well as the addition of new restroom facilities.

The Olcott Pier provides local anglers with access to a variety of Lake Ontario sportfish. A historically popular fishing location, the pier is especially busy during the fall Chinook Salmon run. From late September through early October, anglers line the piers to fish for the significant numbers of salmon that stage just off the piers. Later in the fall, anglers target coho salmon, brown trout and steelhead. Yellow perch catches increase in the fall and spring along with spring steelhead; during summer, pier anglers catch bass, sunfish and the occasional northern pike.

The \$60,000 project to improve Olcott Pier was funded by the Lake Ontario Natural Resources Damages (LONRD) fund, and implemented through a state assistance contract with the Town of Newfane. The project is one among over 40 identified in the state's Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan for the Lake Ontario System issued on July 20, 2007.

The LONRD program is responsible for implementing a far-reaching revitalization plan to restore and enhance the fisheries of Lake Ontario and its tributaries. Coordinated through DEC's Bureau of Fisheries, the LONRD program is funded by a portion of the 2006 natural resources damages settlement received by the state from Occidental Chemical Corporation. Additional information about the settlement is available on DEC's website at <a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/54189.html">http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/54189.html</a> .

(MORE)

Parking for the Olcott Fishing Pier (east) is located at the foot of Ontario Street. In the Village of Olcott, head north on Lockport Street, and turn left on East Main Street. From Main Street, turn right on Cooper Street and then left on Ontario Street. Follow the signs and access path to the fishing pier.

Additional information on boat launch sites in Niagara County is available on DEC's website at <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/23907.html</u>. A weekly updated fishing hotline for Western New York is also available online at <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/39271.html</u>.

###