

Would you like to see...



Sweet Grass



and Wild Rice

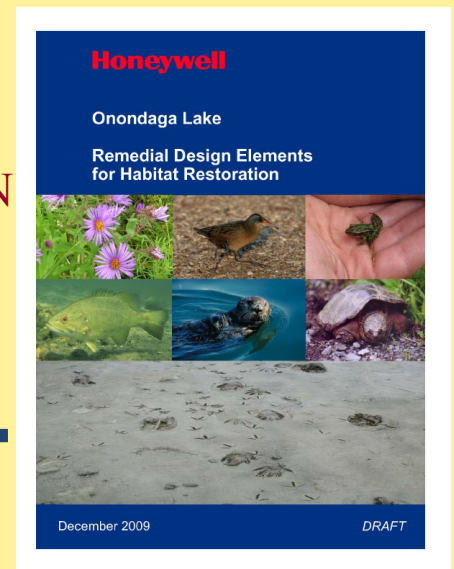
restored to Onondaga Lake?

Then submit your comments on the

ONONDAGA LAKE HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN

Available online at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61073.html>



What is this document?

This is the plan for restoring habitat that will be disturbed when Onondaga Lake is dredged to remove hazardous materials. It is part of the remediation activities mandated under Superfund, part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA").

Why should I read this plan?

In order to make sure we don't foreclose restoration options! This plan is only one early step in the restoration of Onondaga Lake. Restoration is the responsibility of the Onondaga Lake Trustee Council (the Onondaga Nation, US Department of the Interior, and New York State). Ultimately, a full restoration plan will be prepared after a mandatory, inclusive public process. At other sites, these kinds of plans are coordinated.

What should *I* do?

Comment on the plan!

Submit your comments by

February 16, 2010 to:

Mr. Donald Hesler

NYSDEC

625 Broadway 12th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-7013

derweb@gw.dec.state.ny.us



Here are some points to consider when making your comments:

- **The goals of the plan are too limited:** This plan does NOT make up for all the natural resource services that have been lost due to the hazardous releases.
- **The lake has a rich biological history:** Wild rice grew along the lakeshore. Salmon, eel, sturgeon, burbot, and whitefish were abundant. A variety of wetland types were found along the lake, including cedar swamps, maple-ash swamps, and inland salt marshes
- **The lake has a rich cultural history:** The Onondaga Nation relied on the lake fish and birds for subsistence and on plants for food and medicines. The Nation considers the lake sacred because this was the site at which the Peacemaker came to form the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.
- **The restoration plan should use the best and most current management techniques:** Adaptive management techniques and a Biocultural restoration approach should be used to integrate social and ecological goals for the Lake.
- **The restoration plan should take into account the Lake's future:** Remediation and changes in land use around the Lake could dramatically increase access to and visibility of the Lake for recreational and subsistence users. However, global climate change and invasive species may present challenges to restoration.