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# EDUCATIONAL VESSEL ONTARIO PROJECT

1984 ANNUAL REPORT

New York Sea Grant Program  
November 1984

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THE 1984 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL VESSEL ONTARIO PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

In 1983, the New York Sea Grant Program launched one of the most unique and innovative water-oriented educational projects ever attempted. Using a donated "state-of-the-art" equipped 25-foot sportfishing vessel, Sea Grant educators traveled the New York shore of Lake Ontario presenting information and educational activities to the growing public audience of lake anglers, boaters, and other users. This undertaking, called the E/V (for "Educational Vessel") Ontario Project, was predominantly supported by private donations, and, by most measures, was an unqualified success during its inaugural year.

This report is a synopsis of the sponsorship, funding, activities, achievements and shortcomings of the E/V Ontario Project during its second, but first full season. Those having further questions on the project or its activities can contact Dr. Michael Voiland, E/V Ontario Director and Sea Grant Specialist, 405 Administration Building, SUNY College, Brockport, N.Y. 14420 (716-395-2638).

Sea Grant is a joint educational and research program in coastal resources carried out in New York by the State University of New York, Cornell University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce and a growing number of private groups, businesses and individuals.

EVO SPONSORSHIP: THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMES THROUGH FOR EDUCATION

In 1984, over two hundred fifty private groups, manufacturers, businesses and individuals served as sponsors of the E/V Ontario Project. A listing of these supporters can be found in Appendix A.

The "cornerstone" donations to the project were again provided by the Thompson Boat Company of St. Charles, Michigan, in concert with Mercruiser Marine Power, an engine manufacturer located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and Krenzer Marine of Sodus Point, New York. Through these companies, the project was loaned the use of a 1984 25-foot sportfishing vessel for the period April through September. In addition, a towing trailer was loaned to the project by the EZ Loader Company through its distributor, JTT, of Birmingham, Ohio.

Whether through the loan or donation of equipment or services, the direct giving of funds, or through the purchase of sponsored advertisements in the project's complementary educational publication, the Lake Ontario Sportfishing

Information Annual, private sponsorship in 1984 was responsible for providing equipment valued at approximately \$47,000 and the supplying of operational/staffing funds totalling some \$15,500. Sea Grant, through Cornell University's Cooperative Extension, provided staffing and coordinating expertise through a regional specialist, and a towing vehicle and its maintenance costs.

A brief budget statement of the 1984 project, as of October 3, 1984, is found in Appendix B. The noted budget surplus, resulting from the continued and generous support of project sponsors, puts the EVO on a sound fiscal footing. As such, in 1985, sponsored advertisement rates for the Lake Ontario Sportfishing Information Annual will be reduced, outright donations will not be actively solicited, and ways to use the surplus to further enhance the overall quality of educational activities will be explored.

#### EVO ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHMENTS: YEAR TWO

As a complementary part and fund-raising mechanism for the E/V Ontario Project, the 1984 Lake Ontario Sportfishing Information Annual again was produced and distributed throughout the Northeast United States. This 44-page publication, still the only comprehensive source of information on the lake's fishery resources, was disseminated at sponsoring storefronts, through the mail, at major spring fishing shows and exhibitions throughout the Northeast, and at all major EVO port visits and programs. The Annual, through sponsor advertisements, netted over \$9,079.60 in staffing and operating funds for the project in 1984.

#### Fisheries Past and Present

Major educational programs addressing the history and present status of the Lake Ontario fishery were formally conducted along the lakeshore in 1984. A program on spring fishing prospects and techniques drew 80 attendees in April at Fair Haven, while a fall salmon fishing preview and clinic attracted 130 participants at Irondequoit in August. A unique, first-ever program on the history of lake fisheries brought some 60 history "buffs" and anglers to historic Gates Hall in Pultneyville. Fifty people attended the program "Orleans County's Great Lake Heritage," which provided insights into the special relationship between the lake and that county's landscape, architecture, settlement, weather, agriculture and fishery. Lastly, the project assisted in conducting and explaining an assessment of walleye in the lower Niagara which was funded by the Niagara River Anglers Association and led by Dr. James Haynes at SUNY/Brockport.

#### Helping Users and Producers

On an informal basis, the project was able, through use and experience with various products, to assist 10 manufacturers

evaluate donated equipment. Four electronics companies were aided in field-testing or "de-bugging" sub-surface and surface water temperature or LORAN-C products.

The consumer also benefitted, in a formal fashion, from the project's product experience. Two LORAN-C clinics were held, at Olcott and Fair Haven, at which a total of 100 new or prospective buyers of the devices were instructed in their advantages, features and uses. Forty attended the EVO's second annual marine electronics clinic at Oswego, and 125 interested in downrigger techniques and equipment showed up for a major program in Oswego.

### Teaching Community Leaders About The Lake's Resources

A facet of the EVO project is to expose decision-makers to the lake resource and its potentials and problems. As such, staff from a state senator's and a congressman's office were given a shoreline tour of potential fishing access sites in the Lower Niagara, with the help of the Niagara River Anglers Association. DEC Commissioner Henry Williams sampled downrigging methods (and success!) offshore of Orleans County during that county's fishing derby. Three Monroe County legislators toured the county's east shore and experienced catching salmonids. Four members of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors viewed some of the fishing and boating impacts of their county's annual fishing contest. The City of Rochester Recreation Commissioner, his staff and representatives of the city sesquicentennial committee were afforded a waterside view of the planning and impacts of the city's largest recreational event ever, the visit of the Tall Ships, and became familiar with waterfront development sites and potentials in the Charlotte area.

### Open Boat Opens Minds

At virtually every stop and visit of the vessel, at ports from Buffalo to Henderson, dockside visitors were invited aboard, and informally introduced to the world of Lake Ontario. At Buffalo, with the assistance of Congressman Henry Nowak, the EVO and assorted fishery displays were open to the public at the Erie Basin Marina. At Lewiston, during the walleye derby, the vessel was fully rigged and "boardable" by dockside visitors. In addition, the EVO was opened for public inspection at all of its formal presentations, and at numerous derby awards programs.

### Youth Cruises Expand

In 1984, six county 4-H programs offered the opportunity for interested youth to come aboard the vessel for a 90-minute "Introduction to Lake Ontario and Its Fishery" cruise. One hundred thirty-six (136) kids from Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Oswego, and Ontario counties participated, were exposed to an on-the-lake fishing experience, and were introduced to concepts such as lake thermal stratification, preferred temperatures and habitats, predator/prey relationships, hydro-acoustics and basic navigation.

## Enhancing Teaching Resources

A number of EVO activities sought to enhance our ability to teach lake-related topics. Slide programs were upgraded on LORAN-C and downrigger equipment and its use. Faculty from the Community College of the Finger Lakes conservation program were given a tour of the vessel as an aid to equipping their own vessel and improving their understanding of the lake resource. Forty county extension coordinators from around New York visited the vessel at Rochester and learned of its program and activities. Also 35 4-H leader/volunteers participated in the youth cruise program in 1984.

## The Wautoma Inventory: A Discovery!

A scheduled effort to recover aquatic plants purported to be growing on Wautoma Shoal (off the Hamlin-Parma shore) was carried out as part of the 1984 EVO program. With the assistance of SUNY College at Brockport faculty and members of NOAA's Hydrographic Survey Field Team, at least four species of these macrophytes were collected from the shoal. This occurrence piqued scientific interest in the shoal, inasmuch as such plants supposedly do not root or mature in open lake environments. An effort to further define the significance of the discovery and to support continued observation of the shoal environment and other shoal areas will be made over winter and possibly in the vessel's 1985 program. A copy of a feature article on the shoal discovery, printed in the Niagara Falls Gazette and the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, is available on request.

## Sonar Interpretation Assistance

In concert with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Oswego Station, an exercise comparing sonar recordings between vessels and with trawl net catch generated some clues on graph recorder interpretation. The findings, and potentially further exercises next year, may result in more useful interpretive guidelines for boat anglers trying to locate salmonids and to distinguish predator from forage species. A short report on this cooperative effort is available on request.

## Explaining And Defining The Offshore Resource

On June 2, twenty-six boats participated in an EVO-sponsored organized offshore troll in search of Pacific Ocean species out of Sandy Creek Harbor in Hamlin, N.Y. In addition to the shared communications and educational experience that took place on the water, the resulting catch report represented the first systematically-generated documentation of the lake's growing late spring offshore steelhead fishery. The report is available on request and will be reprinted in the 1985 Annual. The troll was co-sponsored by the Tyee Deep Trollers Club, the BEST Anglers Association and the Oak Orchard River Anglers Associations.

## A Career Experience For A Fisheries Student

Once again, the position of EVO Deckhand and Information officer provided the opportunity for a student in fisheries sciences to experience the public educational side of natural resources use and development. In 1984, the position was filled most capably by Robert Williams, a senior enrolled in the Aquatic Sciences curriculum in the SUNY College at Brockport's Department of Biological Sciences. According to Williams, "the Lake Ontario fishery is an awesome natural resource. As the EVO deckhand in 1984, it was my great fortune to explore it, learn from it and help make the public aware of it."

## Enhancing Media Coverage Of Lake Resource Topics

As in 1983, a major achievement of the 1984 EVO activities was the heightening of accurate media coverage of the lake resource. Print and broadcast media attention multiplied public focus on lake fishery development topics and issues at local, regional, statewide and national levels.

Major accomplishments of the project's media-related activities included the following:

- Fishing and equipment demonstrations and field trips with contributing writers and editors from:

Outdoor Life  
Field & Stream  
Great Lake Fisherman  
Gannett News Service  
On the Trail  
Fins and Feathers  
New York Fish Finder  
The Niagara Gazette  
Wayne County Mail  
Bee Publishing (Williamsville, N.Y.)  
Worral Publications (Buffalo-Tonawanda, N.Y.)  
Buffalo News  
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

- Television coverage, including:

WXXI-TV Rochester: Fall Salmon Fishing  
in Monroe County

WHEC-TV and WROC-TV Rochester: Lake Ontario  
Fishing Brings Economic Impacts

Nashville Cable Vision (national): Fish America:  
Lake Ontario's Thermal Clues for Salmon &  
Trout

Cable 3, Niagara Falls, N.Y.: Outdoor Scene:  
Tour of the Lower Niagara

-Feature printed articles:

A. Resulting from 1983 cruise:

"Floating Classroom On Lake Ontario" - Outdoor Life

"Manufacturers, Educators & the Public Cooperate in a Marine Education Program" - National Marine Electronics News

"E/V Ontario: Floating Classroom Broadens Interest in Sportfishery - Lake Ontario Anglers Benefit from a Unique Educational Resource" - Fishing Tackle Trade News

Cover Photograph - July 1984 Great Lake Fisherman magazine

"New York: Where the Experts Fish" - Fins and Feathers

"Fishing's Newest Magic Box" - Outdoor Life

"Spring Bonanza of the Great Lakes" - Field & Stream Fishing Guide '84

"Lake Ontario's Monster Fish," - Great Lakes Trolling Annual '84

"Floating Classroom - A Three Day Visit..."  
Lockport Union Sun

"Lake Ontario Boat Educates Public in Boating, Fishing" -Marine Retailers Association of America News

"Will Lake Ontario Produce the First 50-Pound Chinook?" - Great Lake Fisherman

"Spotlight: Western Lake Ontario," Great Lakes Fisherman

"Smallmouth Savvy" - Field & Stream

B. Resulting from 1984 cruise:

"Local Anglers to Fund Walleye Study," Niagara Gazette, March 25, 1984

"Big Year for Fishing Expected on Lake," Rochester Times Union, April 1984

"Fishing Is Just Fine for Derby Anglers, Merchants," Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, April 28, 1984

"Derby Brings in Big Fish, Business & Good Will," Times Union, April 1984

"Floating Classroom Lures Students Casting about for Fishing Success," Buffalo News, May 11, 1984

"Sportfishing Boat Is Teaching Tool," Buffalo News, May 13, 1984

"Sportfishing a Big Boost to Orleans County Economy," Medina Journal Register, August 10, 1984

"Fish Stocking 'Experiment' Successful in Lake Ontario," Medina Journal Register, August 1984

"New York Town Gains Fishing Insights," Soundings, October 1984

#### REALIZING THE LIMITATIONS

As in any endeavor, certain aspects of the EVO's 1984 cruise remained beyond our control and limited the ultimate effectiveness of the its activities.

Most importantly, it became apparent that the project's capability to expand its programs and its reach along the lakeshore was constrained by the finite personal resources of its staff. It appears likely that this limitation will continue to exist, and that major improvements to educational activities will result from enhancing the quality and impact of programs, not the quantity of programs.

Weather was again responsible for cancellation of some scheduled activities. The offshore troll out of Oswego was cancelled, as was a planned tour for a congressional representative on the Upper Niagara River. Media trips offshore of the eastern Orleans-western Monroe County shoreline, Olcott Harbor and Oswego were also either called off or curtailed due to wave conditions. Wave conditions also did not allow a few youth cruises to be conducted in the lake proper.

Fortunately, occasional maintenance and repairs for boat, trailer and towing vehicle were accomplished without sacrificing programmed activity time.



APPENDIX B

1984 EVO BUDGET

|   | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 1983 Surplus  | \$8,020.00    |                 |
| 1984 Lake Ontario Sportfishing<br>Annual Sponsorships | 15,412.00     |                 |
| Donations   | 4,690.45      |                 |
| Deckhand (Student) Salary                             |               | 3,480.00        |
| Publication Costs                                     |               | 4,751.30        |
| Boat Fuel   |               | 641.79          |
| Travel/Transportation                                 |               | 887.97          |
| Equipment (purchase, replacement<br>or repair)        |               | 1,075.54        |
| Insurance (boat & equipment)                          |               | (est.) 285.00   |
| Miscellaneous (postage, film, ice, etc.)              |               | 526.93          |
| <hr/>   |               |                 |
| TOTALS  | \$28,122.45   | \$11,648.53     |
| BALANCE   | \$16,473.92   |                 |

## APPENDIX A

### LIST OF 1984 E/V ONTARIO PROJECT SPONSORS

The businesses, organizations, and individuals noted below have made contributions in support of the E/V Ontario Project in 1984. The New York Sea Grant Extension Program wishes to recognize and thank its many supporters for making the EVO an educational reality.

A&M Graphics  
Action Anglers/Clipper Release  
Adam's Taxidermy  
Advocate Charters-Capt. Sam Dattilo  
American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association  
Ande, Inc.  
Mr. Robert Anderson  
Archery Outfitters  
Arney's Marina  
Arnold Tackle Corp.  
Mr. Robert Artis  
B&B Charters-Capt. Bob Ruhland  
Bald Eagle Marina  
BC Electronics  
B-E Fishing Tackle  
Mr. Wes Beadling  
Berkley/Trilene  
BH/Sonic Wave  
Mr. Bick Bicknell  
Big Dipper Charters-Capt. Ray Gebhard  
Big Jon, Inc.  
Black North Charters-Capt. Howard Garbutt  
Boat House Marina  
Bristol Signs  
Brushcut Charters-Capt. Eddie Patt  
Bryce Marine  
Buc-A-Roo Charters-Capt. Ron Penna  
Bushnell Division of Bausch & Lomb  
C-Frog Charters-Capt. Ed Dorscheid  
Canandaigua Fishing Tackle  
Cannonball Runner Charters  
Chili Plastics/Cast-Craft  
Charlotte Area Business Association  
Clearwater Tackle Co., Inc.  
Cobblestone Museum  
Coho Yacht Club  
Condor Charters-Capts. Shirley & Joe Riefer  
Mr. Ed Corcoran  
Cortland Line Co.  
Daiwa  
Datamarine International  
Deepwater Charters-Capt. Jeff Liebenow  
Ding Hao Charters-Capt. Bob Rapp  
Downrigger Charters-Capt. Red Douglas

Capt. Bob Doyle  
DuPont/Stren  
DuraPak Corporation  
Eastern Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon Associatin  
Eastside Hunting and Fishing  
Ebb-Tide Limited-Capt. Mike Paladino  
Electro Marine Systems  
Electronics Security Protectin  
Eppinger Lures  
ESLO Derby, Inc.  
Fair Haven Beach State Park  
Fair Haven Area Chamber of Commerce  
Farash Corporation  
Farr-Out Charters-Capt. Ron Farr  
Feldman Engineering/Jiffy Ice Augers  
Fenwick/Woodstream  
Fin-Tastic Charters-Capt. Caz Pizzo  
Fishin' Fever Charters-Capt. Bob Titton  
Fishmate Thermo-Locator/J & J Associates  
Fish on Charters-Capt. Bill Kelley  
Flambeau  
Mr. Mark Foster  
Fowler's Marina  
Freeman Marine  
Mr. Norm Frisch  
Gallo's Discount Stores  
Gates Hall Association  
Mr. Norm Gauch  
Genesee Brewing Co.  
Genesee Charter Associatin  
Genesee Region Marine Trades Association  
Goodell-Kirby Agency  
GP Lures  
Graves Realty  
Greater Oswego Chamber of Commerce  
Green Point Marina  
Haheer's Bait Shop  
Capt. Dick Hampson  
Harbor Inn Restaurant & Motel  
Harbor's End Marina  
Mr. Skip Hartman  
Heddon Tackle Division of Plastics Research  
Hedley Boat Company  
Hi-Line Charters-Capt. Don Chamberlin  
Mr. Bill Hilts  
Mr. Bill Hilts, Jr.  
Hookher Charters-Capt. Bill Maglione  
Howard Baker & Company  
Igloo Corp.  
Inmar Electronics  
Invader Downriggers  
Irondequoit Bay Fish & Game Club  
Jack's Driftwood Lounge & Marina  
Jameslea Marine  
Jay Sea Marine

Jay-Ve Tackle  
Mr. Clifton Jenney  
Jolley Release  
JTT, Inc./EZ Loader  
K-Line/Invader  
Mr. Mike Keenan  
Mr. Robert Kidd  
Mr. Robert Kingsbury  
Mr. Dave Kingsland  
Kozy Hollow Campground & Marina  
Krenzer Marine  
Lake Ontario Charter Boat Association  
Lake Ontario Mariners, Inc.  
Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon Association-Niagara Chapter  
Lake Plains Waterfowl Association  
Laurie Ann Charters-Capts. Marv Cappon & Don Stollery  
Mr. Norm Lewandowski  
Mr. Chris Leys/Northern Marine  
Lighthouse Marina  
Lithochrome Corp.  
Capt. Roger Lowden  
Lowrance Electronics  
Luhr Jensen  
Magna-Dyne/Northport Nailer  
John Mann/Sodus Bay Canvas Company  
Mark's Tackle  
Marine Dealers Association of Central N.Y.  
Marine Trades Association of Western N.Y.  
Mathews & Boucher, Inc.  
Mercruiser Marine Power  
Mercury Outboards  
Mexico Bay Company  
Micrologic  
Midland Tackle  
Mirage Charters  
Monroe County Conservation Council  
Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board  
Morgan Recreational  
Mustad Hook  
National Fiberglass  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
Nationwide Precision Products  
Town of Newfane  
New York Power Authority  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Niagara County Charter Fishing Association  
Niagara County Fishery Development Board  
Niagara County Tourism/Fishing Office  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.  
Niagara River Anglers Association  
NOAA Hydrographic Survey Field Team - Kendall NY  
Normark/Rapala  
Norm's Marina  
Noto's Green Acres  
Offshore Release

Olcott Bait & Tackle  
Olcott Fire Department  
Ontario Electronics/Mr. Tom Mulhall  
Ontario Flasher/J&L Lure  
Orleans County Fishery Advisory Board  
Orleans County Chamber of Commerce  
Osprey  
Oswego Maritime Foundation  
Outdoor Hi-Lites  
Pacific & Atlantic Products  
Papadoc Associates/Dr. Clark Triftshauser  
Parsons & Toomey Inc.  
Mr. Bill Peck  
Penn Reel Company  
Plano  
Pier One Marina  
Plastics Research/Rebel  
Port Bay Improvement Association  
Port City Sports  
Powder Horn Supply/Slim Darter  
Prince Mastercraft  
Proos Manufacturing Co.  
Prop Shop  
Pugsley's Marine  
Pultneyville Marine Co.  
Quik-Strike Lures/Bill Quinn  
Rainbow Sports  
Red Eye/Evil Eye  
Redwood Motel  
Reel Lure-In Charters-Capt. Tony Arlauckas  
Reliance Fishing Rods  
Ringneck Charters-Capt. Jim Grant  
Riverview Yacht Basin  
Riviera  
Rochester Bassmasters  
City of Rochester Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
Rochester Gas & Electric  
Rochester Hollow Grinder  
Rochester Local Salmon Derby  
Rochester Marine  
Rochester/Monroe County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Rochester Trout & Salmon Anglers  
Roemer Release  
Vincent Rogers  
Ruddy's Fishing Camp  
S&K Products/Cannon  
The Salmon Shop  
Sampo/Rome Specialty  
Sandy Creek Marina  
Sandy Creek Marina-Capts. Carl Ayers, Marv Shacket, Rick Curatalo  
Sea Breeze Charters-Capt. Dick Najder  
Sea-Ducer Charters-Capt. Ransom Snyder  
Seager Marine  
Sea Grant Coastal Recreation Program Advisory Committee  
Sea-Land Communications

Sea-Pass Charters-Capt. Jim Tsepas  
Shadow Charters-Capt. Dave DeVolder  
Sheraton Hotels-Newark NY  
Shimano  
Shumway Marine  
Silstar  
Skinner's Marina  
Smokehouse Charters-Capt. Bob Peter  
SMR-Southern Marine Research  
Sodus Deep Trollers  
Stearns Vest  
Sunrise Charters-Capt. Ed Hudack  
Capt. Joe Swift  
Capt. Greg Switzer  
Thompson Boat Co.  
Thunder Trails  
Top-Line Charters-Capts. Jess Janes, Bill Shone & John Sweeney  
Tower Coin & Stamp Exchange, John Bauer, prop.  
Triple-S Sporting Supplies  
Tyee Deep Trollers  
U.S. Fiberglass  
Unity Agency  
Vexilar  
Vic's Three Bridges Inn  
Voyager Boat Sales  
Capt. Larry Watts  
Walker Downriggers  
Wayne Business Council, Inc.  
Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen  
Wayne County Planning Board  
Wayne County Public Information Office  
Weber's Marina  
Western Lake Ontario Charter Association  
Whitey's Ray Charters-Capt. Ray Foster  
Wille/Sea-Ski  
Wilson Boatyard/Clark's Tackle  
Wilson Conservation Club  
Wilson Sales and Service  
WNPE/WNPI Television-Watertown NY  
Yakima Baits  
You'll Like It, Too Charters-Capt. Vern Krieger  
Zahno Marine