

Update: DEC eyes water authority land for Otisco Lake boat launch



About a dozen anglers line the causeway on Otisco Lake. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is currently considering putting in a public boat launch just south of the causeway on the west side of the lake on Onondaga County Water Authority property. (Stephen D. Cannerelli | scannerelli@syracuse.com)

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on September 11, 2015 at 2:33 PM, updated September 11, 2015 at 2:41 PM

The state's search for property to put in a public boat launch on Otisco Lake is currently focusing on a stretch of property on the southwest end of the lake.

The property, which includes about 1,500 feet of shoreline southwest of the causeway, is currently owned by [the Onondaga County Water Authority](#).

Mike Hooker, executive director of OCWA, said today he's been told by the state Department of Environmental Conservation that it would like to put in a boat launch on the land, which is located off West Valley Road. Hooker said his board of directors recently agreed in principle to either transfer or sell the property to the DEC.

"The board agreed to a motion to go forward on it. We just need to work out the details," Hooker said.

Ken Lynch, the DEC's regional director, declined to comment on Hooker's statements, saying the process is still in the early stages.

Otisco Lake, which is six miles long, is the only Finger Lake without a public boat launch. Trailered boats currently get on the waterway by paying to launch at two private marinas. Earlier this year, **the DEC said it was looking at three sites on the lake to build a public launch.**

They included state-owned property about a half mile south of Amber on the east side of the lake, the county- owned Otisco Lake Park in Amber, adjacent to Turtle Bay on the northeast side of the lake – and the OCWA site.

Hooker said he was told by Lynch that after looking at all three sites, the DEC has decided at this point the OWCA land is the most desirable.

He added that there's additional OCWA- owned land across the road on the southwestern section of the parcel that might also be included in any deal struck.