



Wear It! Oswego

Brookfield Renewable Power is part of the Wear It! Oswego collaborative which raises public awareness about responsible and safe recreation on or near water. The program also highlights the importance of wearing life jackets and the options that are available when it comes to comfortable and light-weight personal flotation devices. Other Wear It! Oswego collaborators include the City of Oswego Fire Department, the Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning, and *The Palladium-Times*. The Wear It! Oswego campaign is an off-shoot of the National Safe Boating Council and New York State Wear It! programs; visit www.safeboatingcampaign.com and www.wearitnewyork.com for additional information.



Wear It! Oswego is now on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wearitoswego

Always check water and weather conditions before you recreate.

GENERAL WATER SAFETY RULES

Stay away from dangerous areas such as dams, intake and water conveyance structures, gates, powerhouses and substations.

Obey all warning signs, buoys, booms, sirens, barriers, lights and fences. Hazards in restricted areas are very dangerous and are more likely to result in permanent injury or death.

Use only designated recreation areas. For your safety, do not enter areas that are excluded from public access.

Bring along a friend and adhere to a "buddy system" to prevent mishaps and to assure prompt assistance.

Always use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.

Help keep all areas clean and adhere to Brookfield Renewable Power's "Carry in – Carry it out" policy.

Varick Hydro Oswego River Fishing Safety



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Share Rivers...Safely!

Brookfield Renewable Power owns and operates over 100 hydropower facilities throughout the United States, including six on the Oswego River. The same rivers that provide clean, renewable hydropower are enjoyed year-round by individuals and families for their recreational quality.

Together we can share the rivers safely. Please be courteous, use common sense and do not put yourself in danger.

Observe these important safety rules as you fish on the Oswego River nearby Brookfield Renewable Power's Varick Hydropower Dam:

- Whether wading or boating, always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. Neoprene waders also will aid in fishing safely.
- Stay alert for changes in water levels. Hydroelectric power production, upriver canal operations and natural flow variations may cause unexpected swift currents and changes in water levels below the Varick Dam and Powerhouse.
- Pay attention to depth markers installed in the river to help monitor river conditions around you.
- If you see a rise in water levels, exit the river immediately. Also, if spillage over the dam increases, or if the alarm siren sounds, or the red warning light is lit, exit the river immediately.

- Always have an exit strategy. Monitor the warning lights nearby the river.

DANGER: The red warning light signifies a flow change. Exit the river IMMEDIATELY and stay out of the river while the light remains illuminated.

CAUTION: The yellow warning light signifies natural or operational flow changes have ceased. It is never completely safe for the public to be in the riverbed, even when the yellow light is illuminated. Use extreme caution as flows can change suddenly.

- Never fish alone.
- Never try crossing the river when water rises. Move to the closest shoreline to exit.
- Wade with caution. Wear a wader belt, keep drawstrings tight and avoid situations where waders or boots could flood. If you trip or fall, don't panic! Keep your feet up and float with the current to calmer water.
- Wear polarized sunglasses to spot hazards (and fish!).

- Wear anti-slip soles, spikes or other effective "grippers" or "corkers" when wading. Also, carry a wading stick for better footing.
- Obey all warning signs, buoys, booms, barriers, fences, lights, and sirens. Hazards in restricted areas are very dangerous and more likely to result in permanent injury or death.
- In case of an emergency, call the 911 center and provide river station information. Lettered river station signage is on both sides of the river from the Varick Dam to its confluence with Lake Ontario. Stations are provided to direct rescue personnel when responding to an emergency.



Fishing below the Varick Dam and Powerhouse is dangerous. Study this map and be especially careful in the areas of higher danger outlined in red. Wading is prohibited inside the high danger zones and access to project structures (including the dam) is prohibited.

