

Fishing Regulation Proposal Form A – Special Regulation

Proposed Regulation Panfish 10 daily bag	
Current Regulation Panfish 25 daily bag	
Author Travis Motl	Date 3/27/26

Location Information

Affected water(s) Silver Lake and connected inlet tributaries	
County(ies) Kenosha County	WBIC(s) 747900, 748000, 5041581, 5041644, 5041661
Upstream/downstream boundaries, if applicable – Law Enforcement should be consulted Downstream of outlet dam maintain statewide base regulations, direct connection to IL Fox River.	
Is this a lake that is part of a chain or is connected to another water? No and No	Does it cross county boundaries?

Description of the Water and Fishery

Provide a brief description of the water(s)

Silver Lake is a 516-acre drainage lake with a max depth of 44ft. It has a wide, shallow, littoral zone with abundant aquatic plant growth in areas. The majority of the shoreline is developed as residential properties. The remaining shoreline is somewhat natural within state and county owned properties, though part of the county property is a beach. The lake has two public boat launches, one state owned and managed.

What is the stocking history over the past 20 years? What are the current stocking plans for the future?

WWI Sentinel Lake stocked with large fingerling walleye even years since 2014. History of regular stocking of large fingerling muskellunge and periodic stocking of large fingerling northern pike stocking until 2019, both discontinued now.

Have there been any significant management actions (e.g. habitat work, chemical reclamation, etc.) or major anthropogenic disturbances (e.g. water quality changes, invasives, water level manipulations etc.) on the water in the past 20 years?

Water was unusually low because of drought conditions 2021.

How often was the waterbody surveyed in the past 20 years and what type of surveys were conducted?

Comp Surveys (SN1, SE1, SE2 and FE) 2021, 2011, plan to stay on 8-10 year schedule
Annual FE 2014 – 2021, also 2023 and 2025

Management Goal

Summary statement that characterizes the desired fishery (for example, provide a naturally reproducing harvest-oriented walleye fishery; provide a high density bass fishery that maximizes predation on smaller fishes)

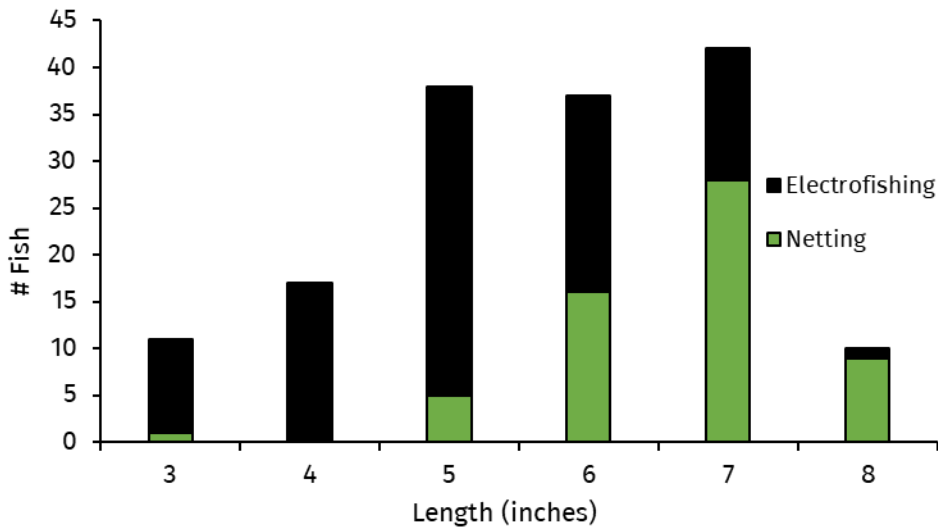
Increase the abundance of moderate/large adult bluegill.

Justification

Current Problem

How is the management goal not being met with the current regulation? Provide available information to demonstrate the problem.

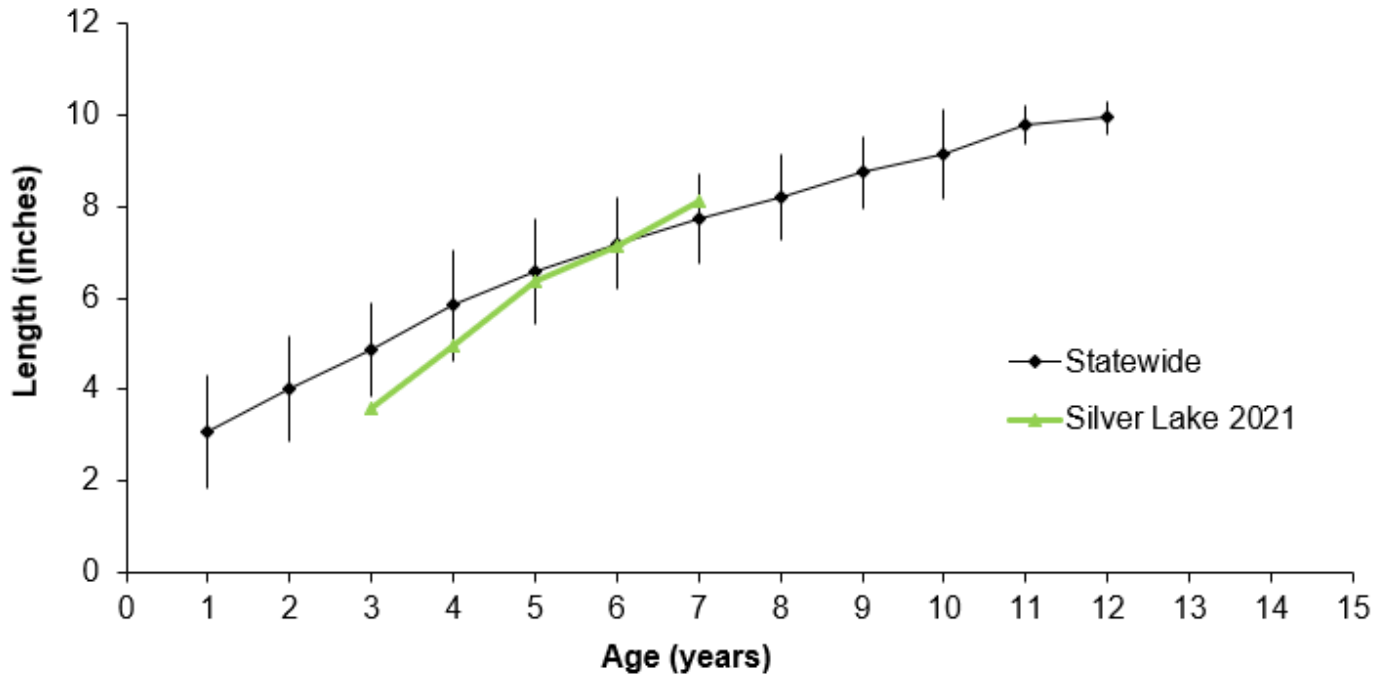
2021 SE2 survey data indicates a below average relative abundance of bluegill. 2021 CPUE was 64 bluegill/mile. Lake class median = 116.99 bluegill/mile



2021 average size: 5.6 inches SE2, 7.0 inches SN1

The 2021 bluegill SE2 average size meets the reduced bag criteria however the SN1 average size does not.

Bluegill Mean Length at Age (+/- 1 SD)



2021 otolith aging data shows slightly below average growth under age 5 and average growth at ages 5 and above when compared to statewide data. Samples of age 6 and 7 bluegill were somewhat limited.

Survey Year	Age	Number of Fish	AVG Length IN	Min Length IN	Max Length IN
2021	3	9	3.6	3.2	4.1
2021	4	13	4.96	4.4	5.8
2021	5	16	6.36	5.1	7.3
2021	6	5	7.12	6.8	7.6
2021	7	1	8.1	8.1	8.1

Otolith aging was also completed in 2025. We collected bluegill during FE for an age at length analysis. The 2 most common lengths were 6 and 7 inches. Average age at 6 inches (8 bluegill) was 4.3 and average age at 7 inches (11 bluegill) was 5.5. This suggests slightly faster growth than the 2021 analysis and is similar to lake class medians.

Species	Lake Class	Age	Median IN	Silver Lake 2025 Ave Age	Length Bin IN
Bluegill	Complex - Warm - Dark	4	5.75	4.3	6
Bluegill	Complex - Warm - Dark	5	6.5		
Bluegill	Complex - Warm - Dark	6	7	5.5	7

Basis for Special Regulation

Is the proposed regulation in the toolbox? Use survey data to demonstrate how the proposed regulation will help meet the management goal. Demonstrate expected results of the regulation using tools such as modeling, peer-reviewed literature, etc.

Proposed regulation is in the toolbox. Panfish Team evaluation of special regulation options show modest gains in abundance and size in certain bluegill populations with a 10 bag.

Comparison to Other Waters

If the water is an inland lake, what is its current lake classification?

Current lake class for Silver Lake is Complex-Warm-Dark.

Provide context for other similar waters (in this lake class, or streams/rivers that are nearby or otherwise similar) to support your management goal and use of this regulation. For lakes, what are the lake class standards for metrics you hope to obtain with this regulation, and how do data from this lake compare to the standards?

2021 SE2 CPUE = 64 bluegill/mile
Lake Class Median = 116.99/mile Complex-Warm-Dark

Management Objectives of the Proposed Regulation

Objectives are used to evaluate the effectiveness of your action and determine if you have achieved your goal. Provide a management objective that is measurable and has a temporal component (e.g. increase walleye recruitment to 10/mile at least 3 out of 5 years and increase walleye PE from current 1.5/acre to 3 – 4/acre within 7 years; reduce largemouth bass relative abundance to less than 10/mile and increase RSD14 to 25).

Increase bluegill relative abundance to at least lake class median (116.99/mile Complex-Warm-Dark).
Maintain an average bluegill size in SE2 surveys of at least 6 inches.

Evaluation

When and how will the above objectives be measured and evaluated? What is the sampling schedule for this water including frequency and planned protocols?

Objectives will be measured with standard SE2 protocols during the next comprehensive survey (approximately 2031). If this proposal passes it would be implemented in 2028, so data collected in 2031 should give some indication of changes in the bluegill population.

Will the proposed regulation affect Ceded Territory water? Yes ___ No X

Are there any anticipated impacts to tribal fisheries?

Are tournaments held on this water? Yes X No

If yes, please briefly describe frequency and type of tournaments.

1 bass tournament per year in 2022 and 2026, 2 in 2025. Those are the only records of tournaments in FMIS.

Other factors When developing this proposal, did you consider:

Fish contaminant/consumption advice? **Yes**, no lake specific listings
How the regulations would affect males and females differently? **Yes**, no sex specific BLG data
Predator – prey interactions? **Yes**, goal is to maintain balanced LMB and BLG populations
Habitat availability? **Yes**, adequate BLG habitat available
Effects of hooking mortality? **Yes**, may increase hooking mortality due to sorting
Attraction of additional angling pressure? **Yes**, angling pressure may decrease
Alteration of nutrient cycling? **Yes**, no concerns

Proposal Instigation

Was this regulation change initially a Conservation Congress advisory question, requested by a lake association or another public group, or is it based on biological survey and other data you collected? Please describe.

This proposal was requested by the lake group and based on 2021 survey data.

Public Participation

Was input solicited from stakeholders when developing this regulation change? Include any contacts made with local Conservation Congress representatives, lake associations, angler groups, etc.

Letter of support from lake group attached.

Law Enforcement

Before submitting this proposal to your team supervisor, solicit comments from your local warden(s). Is this enforceable? Any other comments received?

Local LE supports this proposal per email from Warden Brandon Smith 3/27/26.

Draft Question

This will be the question in the spring hearing questionnaire. Please use terms understandable to the general public using the following format.

This proposal would apply: A daily bag of 10 panfish.

The current regulation is: A daily bag of 25 panfish.

The management goal is: Increase the abundance of moderate/large adult bluegill.

It is currently not being met because: Angling pressure is causing overharvest leading to below average abundance.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because: Panfish Team evaluation of special regulation options show modest gains in abundance and size in certain bluegill populations with a 10 bag.

Do you favor applying a daily bag of 10 panfish to Silver Lake, Kenosha County?

Example question:

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed in Trump Lake, Forest County. The current regulation is an 18-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 1 fish. A Conservation Congress advisory question to change the bass regulations on Trump Lake was supported by spring hearing attendees in 2011.

The management goal is to improve bass growth and size structure, providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Trump Lake. It is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14-inch) bass. The objective is to increase the proportion of bass over 14 inches from 3% to over 15% within the next 10 years. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small bass is expected to improve growth rates by reducing competition, preserve a range of sizes by protecting 14 to 18 inch bass, and provide additional harvest opportunity.

Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, on Trump Lake in Forest County?

Regulation Proposal Checklist

Fish Team Supervisor

Reviewer	Date
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Are adequate data presented to justify the regulation change? Yes No

Is there adequate documentation that the proposed regulation will achieve the desired stated outcome? Yes No

Are the management objectives clear and complete? Yes No

Reviewer Comments: (Is there additional information you want the author to provide before approving the proposal?)

Recommended Action: Approve Reject

District Fish Supervisor

Reviewer	Date
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Is the proposal necessary? -enforceable? -complete? Yes No

Does the proposal meet the district's goal for providing varied fishing opportunities? Yes No

Is the proposed regulation easy for anglers to comply with and understand? Yes No

Reviewer Comments: (Is there additional information you want the author to provide before approving the proposal?)

Recommended Action: Approve Reject

Species Team

Reviewers	Date
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Are adequate data presented to justify the regulation change?	Yes No
Does the proposal fit with statewide species management goals?	Yes No
Does the proposal meet regional and statewide goals for varied fishing opportunities?	Yes No
Are the management objectives clear and complete?	Yes No

Reviewer Comments: (Is there additional information you want the author to provide before approving the proposal?)

Recommended Action: Approve Reject