

## LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

**Date of Report:** 6/28/2024      **Fisheries Manager:** Rob Hilsabeck  
**District No.:** 4    **LAKE NAME:** Northwest Lake SDHSEFWA  
**County:** Knox    **Water No.:** 4184    **Ownership:** State    **Acreage:** 6.5

---

D.F.M.	Date	R.F.M.	Date
--------	------	--------	------

---

1. All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

**Large or Smallmouth Bass:**

- Protected Slot Length Limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit.

**Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:**

- 25 fish Daily Harvest Limit.

**White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie:**

- 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches.

**Pure Muskellunge:**

- Harvestable slot from 36 to 42 inches, and 48 inch minimum length limit with 1 fish daily harvest limit.

**Channel Catfish:**

- 6 fish daily harvest limit.

**Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye:**

- 3 fish daily harvest limit.

**Recreational Use Restrictions:**

- Upland Hunting Area (all use other than upland hunting prohibited during the north zone upland hunting season) All live bait greater than 8 inches must be rigged with a quick set rig.

2.

IDNR Fisheries completed an electrofishing survey on 9/8/2023.

**LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT**  
**Northwest LAKE SDHSFWA**

<b>3. Lake Management Plan Progress Table:</b>						
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>	2023	LMP
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>						Objectives
Stock #	89	22	23	44	56	
PSD	30	77	26	55	59	40-60
RSD14	3	9	13	23	20	
RSD15	3	0	13	18		
RSD16	1	0	9	5	5	
RSD18	0	0	0	0	2	5-10
Wr	91	82	89	89	94	90-110
YAR	.5	.8	4.3	.6	.6	
CPUE (f/min)	3.0	1.5	.9	2.4	1.9	1/min
EFFORT	30	15	27	18	30	
<b>Bluegill</b>						
Stock #	117	39	35	76	60	
PSD	36	18	29	28	48	20-40
RSD7	32	15	11	13	38	
RSD8	23	5	3	3	20	1-5
RSD9					10	
Wr	119	99	96	91	102	90-110
CPUE (f/min)	3.9	2.6	1.3	4.2	2.0	
<b>Redear Sunfish</b>						
Stock#	3	23	29	4	3	
PSD	100	39	97	75	100	30-50
RSD9	100	0	86	50	100	
Wr	122	105	108	126	108	90-100
CPUE (f/min)	.1	1.5	1.1	.2	.1	
<b>Black Crappie</b>						
Stock#	20	7	1	23	17	30-50
PSD	100	14	100	61	100	
RSD9	90	0	100	52	100	
RSD10	90	0	100	13	94	20-40
RSD11	55	0	100	0	71	5-10
Wr	101	97	91	94	98	90-100

CPUE (f/min)	.7	.5	.03	1.3	.6	
	2015	2016	2018	2020	2023	
<b>Channel Catfish</b>						
Stock#	1	1	0		1	
PSD	100	100			100	40-60
RSD18	100	100			100	10-20
Wr	93	114			122	90-100
CPUE (f/min)	.03	.07	0		.03	

**LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT  
NORTHWEST LAKE**

**Page 3**

4. In 2023, a late summer D.C. electrofishing survey was used to evaluate the fish population. The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 56 stock size bass from electrofishing.

The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 2 to 15 inches in length with average Relative weights. In 2017, the bass regulation for Snakeden Hollow SFWA waters were changed from a 3 fish daily harvest limit with only 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches, to a protected slot length limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit. The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the density of the bass population from 14 to 18 inches. And in 2023, the bass percentage had remained at 20% over 14 inches.

This increased bass density should help create a population that is composed of fish large enough to be efficient predators upon the panfish population. The benefit to bass anglers will be more fish surviving past 15 inches to catch, and for the anglers wanting to harvest bass will be the opportunity to still harvest fish under 14 inches.

The bluegill population was sampled by 60 fish in the electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as very good with the larger fish over 9.0 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 102.

**LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT  
NORTHWEST LAKE**

**Page 4**

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 3 fish in the electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 12 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in very good body condition with a Wr average of 108.

In 2017, the bluegill and redear sunfish regulation was changed from a 10 fish daily harvest limit to a 25 fish daily harvest limit. This change will allow anglers the ability to harvest more bluegill and redear sunfish per daily visit to Snakeden Hollow SFWA waters.

In 2023, the black crappie population was sampled by 17 fish from 2 to 12 inches in the electrofishing survey. The body condition was good at an average Wr of 98.

In 2017, the crappie regulation was changed from a 5 fish daily harvest limit, to a 25 fish daily harvest limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches. The goal of the new regulation is to allow the harvest of more of the slower growing black crappie, while maintaining and promoting the population structure of crappie over 10 inches in length.

The channel catfish population was sampled by 1 fish in the electrofishing survey. This population is of low density. The last stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish was in 2008. None are scheduled for the future.

**Recommended Lake Management Activities with Rationale for Implementation:**

No supplemental stocking is required for Northwest Lake.

Biological Surveys - Conduct annual surveys to measure trends in fishery population dynamics, angling regulations and progress toward management goals. Utilize D.C. electrofishing to sample a target number of at least 50 stock- size largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, and redear sunfish populations.

**LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT  
NORTHWEST LAKE**

**Page 5**

Aquatic Vegetation Control - IDNR Fisheries will apply aquatic herbicides as needed to manage exotic or nuisance aquatic plants for fishing access or sportfish management.

Lake Access - Coordinate with the site staff on the development of shoreline fishing areas and that new regulation signs are posted.

Site Map - update the site map of the water bodies as needed.