



District 230 Bass Fishing Clubs  
15100 S. 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Orland Park, 60462

April 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to request a regulation change regarding a catch and release policy for Lake Sedgewick. Our recommendation is that a mandatory catch and release policy be in place for Walleye, Northern Pike, Tiger Muskies, and Largemouth Bass regardless of their size. Crappies over 10 inches must also be protected and released. ***The only exception to this regulation is that one largemouth bass over 18 inches can be kept.*** No other sportfish are allowed to be kept.

**RATIONALE:**

There must be regulations in place to increase the size of the fish and to protect the financial investment from the Village and the D230 Bass Fishing Clubs. When regulations such as these are implemented, the overall fishing experience will improve. In addition, over the years, the Village has spent a great deal on money stocking Lake Sedgewick. Furthermore, the D230 Bass Fishing Clubs have also spent money and invested hours of time working to build up the lake's structure and habitat. Over the past 3 years, the D230 Bass Fishing Clubs have placed around 100 fish cribs into the lake. We have also taken part in helping clear shoreline in an effort to improve fishing accessibility. By protecting the fish population and allowing them to grow, we are not only protecting our financial investment, but attracting fishermen from neighboring areas who want to come fish Sedgewick. This lake truly has the making of a "premier" fishing location, and with minimal regulations, we truly believe this could occur.

When the lake was surveyed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) two years ago, it was discovered that the lake was over populated with stunted pan fish and largemouth as well as an overabundance of "non-sport" fish such as shad, bullheads, yellow bass, etc. The results of the survey suggested that there were not enough predatory fish (Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, Bass) in the lake to naturally cull the smaller, weaker fish, and to get rid of the "non-sport" fish. Not having enough predatory fish in the lake is evidence that prey fish that have been stocked, are being harvested by fishermen, thus having a negative impact on the lake's ecosystem. It was suggested by the DNR that the village increase the number of predatory fish. Since then, the Village has stocked Walleye, Bass, and Tiger Muskies into the lake. If these fish are not protected in some form, the money spent will not improve the lake's overall fish population.

Walleye, Northern Pike, and Tiger Muskies must be 100% catch and release until their populations have risen to a successful level. Right now, there is little evidence that Walleye or Northern Pike of substantial size exist in the lake. Tiger Muskies have just been introduced this past season, and such a policy would protect this new species from being harvested. A catch and release policy will also protect the genetic make-up of the fish population. We want larger fish that are proven survivors to reproduce in Lake Sedgewick.

This is also the suggestion of James Corcoran, head coach of the Sandburg HS Bass Fishing Club and a marine biologist. We are also seeking approval of this plan from the Regional DNR Officer, and Marine Biologist, Frank Jakubicek.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration, and we truly look forward to continuing the strong bond we have developed with the Village of Orland Park and Lake Sedgewick.

Sincerely,

John Bartgen, Dave Arndt, Chuck Even, James Flynn - Andrew High School Bass Fishing Coaches  
Jim Corcoran, Scott Plaisier - Sandburg High School Bass Fishing Coaches