

## Silver Lake

Silver Lake is one of three lakes in eastern Washington which has been stocked with Tiger Muskies by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Stocking efforts on this lake began in 2002. Tiger muskie were introduced to control tench and stunted pan fish which exist in the lake. Silver Lake is a great lake to fish for tigers, considering it's proximity to Spokane Washington. It doesn't get near the boat traffic as Newman Lake, which also holds tigers.

Silver lake is located in Spokane County, just east of Medical Lake, Washington. The Public launch is located on the northwest corner, accompanied by separate boat and fishing docks. Situated ten miles from Spokane, Silver is located just east of Medical Lake, Washington. There are well marked signs to the public boat ramp.

Silver Lake is a mesotrophic natural lake covering 486 acres with a maximum depth of 80 feet and 8.7 miles of shoreline. It is 3¼ miles long, averages about 1/3 mile wide, and runs in a north-south direction. At the north end the roadway separates it from North Silver Lake. The shoreline is partially developed with private homes. There are two privately owned resorts on the lake; Ruby's and Picnic Pines. Both feature camping, as well as fishing docks and boat launches.



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*Illustration 1: Map of Silver Lake*

Silver Lake has a diverse structure from which to choose when chasing muskies. It has a sunken island, deep weed beds, standing flooded timber, shallow weed beds and rocky points. All of these features can be found in close proximity to deep water, making this a fine muskie lake.

The entire lake has good weed cover, with several patches of cabbage for the observant caster. The south end has the shallow weeds, while the north end has deeper weeds.

Along much of the east shoreline you will find standing flooded timber. The crosshatch on the east side is where it is located. A good lure retrieval system is needed here, unless you are lucky! This area by far holds more muskies than any other part of the lake. Story behind the timber is that the lake was once used for irrigation. The lake was drained down considerably from it's normal levels during this time of irrigation use. It took about 40 years for the lake to come back to present levels. During this time, many trees grew along the east shoreline, which was shallower. You can find standing timber down to 30 feet due to this era's water usage.

There is one sunken island on the lake, which during normal water levels comes to within 4 feet of the surface. On the east side, is 20 feet of water all the way to the east shoreline. On the west, there is a bench sitting in 25-30 feet of water, then dropping down to more than 50 feet deep. Look closely on the map to find this feature.

My go to lures on this lake are Mepps Muskie killers, in black/gold and a Swimmin' Joe, by Joe Bucher. Both have produced the majority of my muskies on this lake. The Swimmin' Joe is a 10" swim bait, not for the faint of heart. Fish can be caught by casting and trolling, although casting is the most fun!

Silver seems to be one lake in the region that produces throughout the year. Ice fishermen tell tales of pulling the fish from under the ice. The largest fish I have taken, was taken during the peak summer water temperature of about 75 degrees f. If you can stand the weather, there's seldom a bad day on Silver!