



2010 Fishing Forecast

COWAN LAKE

Clinton County
681 Acres- 10 H.P. Motor Maximum



Compared to Other Inland Lakes and Reservoirs

Species	FISH POPULATION STATUS			Stocked	Anglers Seeking(%)
	Overall Numbers	This size or Larger	Largest Sampled		
Largemouth Bass	Good	12"	20.6"	<input type="checkbox"/>	25
Crappie	Excellent	8"	13.8"	<input type="checkbox"/>	39
Bluegill Sunfish	Excellent	6"	7.5"	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Channel Catfish	Fair	11"	30.7"	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Saugeye	Fair	14"	23"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
White Bass	Good	7"	15.7"	<input type="checkbox"/>	0

Largemouth Bass

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Good numbers of 12-17 inch bass present, with some fish over 20 inches. Try around fallen shoreline trees, numerous boat docks, rip rap shorelines, and abundant lily pad beds in the upper end.

Crappie

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Although a few 10-13 inch fish are taken, 7-8.5 inch fish are very abundant. Fish shoreline brush and lily pad edges in early spring. In summer, try drop off edges in 10-15 foot depths. Live minnows, wax worms, twister tail jigs, and tube jigs are all productive.

Bluegill Sunfish

OUTLOOK: EXCELLENT

Cowan Lake has excellent numbers of 6-7.5 inch bluegills. Fish shallow water around boat docks, shoreline woody structure, and lily pads from April-June. Cast small tube jigs or twister tails, or try fly fishing with surface poppers, rubber spiders, or wet flies. Later in summer, many fish move to 5-12 foot depths near cover. Fish red worms, wax worms, or meal worms below a sliding bobber when fish are deeper.

Channel Catfish

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Recent netting surveys have shown fair numbers of 14-24 inch channel cats, with some fish up to 30 inches. Try bottom fishing in the shallower, upper half of the lake using chicken livers, night crawlers, prepared baits, and cut shad.

Saugeye

OUTLOOK FAIR

Population netting surveys in 2009 produced fair numbers of adult saugeyes with most fish in the 14-19 inch range. From May through September, fish 4-12 foot depths by casting or trolling shad-pattern crankbaits, or drifting with bottom-bouncing worm rigs or jigs tipped with a minnow. Some fish can be caught in the tailwaters below the dam.

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White Bass

OUTLOOK: GOOD

White bass numbers have increased over the last 5 years, with good numbers of fish 10-12". By fall 2010, most of those smaller fish should reach 8-10 inches. A quick way to find schools of white bass is to troll small shad-colored crankbaits or 1/4 oz. jigs with white twister tails. Once a school is located, cast jigs and twister tails, white or silver in-line spinners (e.g. Rooster Tail, Mepps), or blade baits (e.g. Cicadas, Vib-E's).