



## Lake Conner 2002

Lake Conner is a 100-acre impoundment in Halifax County, Virginia. The lake is owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Located in rural Southside Virginia, Lake Conner offers anglers great fishing opportunities in a picturesque, wooded setting. However, Lake Conner is best known for holding the state record largemouth bass (16 pounds-4 ounces) since 1985.

Anglers fishing Lake Conner are likely to catch largemouth bass, channel catfish, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, chain pickerel, yellow perch, and bullhead catfish. Largemouth bass harvest is regulated with a "trophy slot limit" of 16-22 inches to try and maintain citation-sized bass in the lake. Expert anglers pursuing trophy bass will be challenged at Lake Conner but the lake is also well suited for beginning anglers who are interested in catching fish that aren't necessarily trophies. Statewide regulations apply to all other species. Lake Conner is open 24 hours a day and gas motors are permitted

For years, largemouth bass in Lake Conner were overabundant, but in 1999, the DGIF changed the regulation to a 16-22 inch protected slot limit. This limit was designed to increase harvest on younger largemouth bass to maintain good growth rates. Additionally, this limit would protect adult largemouth bass until they reached trophy or citation size. Sampling in 2000 and 2002 indicate that the regulation is in fact accomplishing its objective. The abundance of largemouth bass below the slot limit (< 16 inches) has been greatly reduced and the number of trophy fish in the lake appears to be relatively high. Even though it has been nearly 20 years since the state record largemouth bass was caught, Lake Conner remains one of the best lakes for trophy largemouth bass in the state. In 2002, biologists sampled three largemouth bass over 9-pounds! Early spring is the best time to catch trophy bass but anglers should also have success during the heat of the summer by fishing early and late in the day. Biologists will continue to monitor this new trophy regulation to assure that it is meeting the objectives of the fishery.

Bluegill, redear sunfish, and crappie are popular with anglers in Lake Conner. Bluegill and crappie numbers seem to be slightly lower in Lake Conner compared to recent years but sizes remain good for both species. Redear sunfish are abundant and tend to be larger than bluegill. Beginning in late April, anglers should be able to catch a lot of fish as they begin to move into shallow water to spawn. Live bait such as crickets and worms work great on panfish but fly anglers can also be successful throwing popping bugs. Anglers may also find enjoyment with yellow perch at Lake Conner although fish rarely exceed 10 inches.

There is a limited catfish fishery at Lake Conner even though it is stocked every other year. However, lake Conner has an excellent bullhead fishery with many 2-3 pound fish.

Lake Conner has a single lane concrete boat ramp and a large gravel parking lot. Additionally, there are a lot of opportunities for anglers without a boat to fish the shoreline adjacent to the boat ramp as well as the dam. Several benches are available for shoreline anglers. No porta-jon facility is available. Lake Conner is located approximately 20 miles north of South Boston, Virginia. From U.S. 360, take Route 746. Turn left on Route 603, then right on Route 619, then right on Route 623 to Route 624.

For more information on Lake Conner, please contact:

Vic DiCenzo, Fisheries Biologist  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
HC 6 Box 46  
Farmville, VA 23901  
(434)392-9645

To report a wildlife violation at Lake Conner, contact the Halifax Sheriff's Department at 434-376-2123, or contact

The VDGIF at 1-800-237-5712 or [wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us)