

Kawkawa Lake

LOCATION: 2 km (1 mi) north of Hope off Coquihalla Hwy

SURFACE AREA: 77 ha (190 ac)

MAX. DEPTH: 14 m (46 ft)

MEAN DEPTH: 10.4 m (34 ft)

ELEVATION: 58 m (190 ft)



KAWKAWA LAKE IS HOME TO ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE FISHERIES FOUND IN THE UPPER FRASER VALLEY. Located at the "Gateway to Holiday Land" in Hope, B.C., this lake features healthy, self-sustaining kokanee, coastal cutthroat, and residualized coho populations just waiting your offerings. Also found are freshwater crayfish and painted turtles. About one half of this lake's shoreline is residential with the remainder steeply forested hillsides and rock slides. The lake is also home to numerous bird species including loons, Canada geese, mallards, redbill hawks, and bald eagles, just to name a few. Sightings of black bears and Columbia blacktail deer are also not uncommon.

Kokanee are the most plentiful and sought after fish that Kawkawa Lake is renowned for. These silver bullets ranging from 25–40 cm (10–16 in), are great fighters and are very tasty. There is also a decent population of coastal cutthroat trout which can be as large as 50 cm (20 in). There are five small, spring-fed tributaries that feed into Kawkawa Lake on the east shoreline which provide the natural spawning needed to sustain all of these fisheries.

The angling season runs from Mar 1–Nov 30. There is a seasonal closure on Kawkawa Lake from Dec 1–Feb 28. The fishing is usually excellent right from the start. Kokanee and coho usually average 20–30 cm (8–12 in) but will quickly attain sizes up to 35–40 cm (14–16 in) by June. The uniqueness of the kokanee fishery (with a daily limit of 4 fish) is that it lasts right into mid-summer with some of the best angling from June to August—a perfect time to take the whole family fishing. When fishing in the early season,

try using small flies, black, brown, or green chironomids on a floating line or trolling black Doc Spratley flies on an intermediate line. Another productive early season method is to troll Wedding Bands with a worm or a Dick Nite trailer. Finally, don't pass on the opportunity to fish just off the bottom or by using a bobber with krill, worms or salmon eggs as bait. This method is by far the most productive from May to mid-August with the best place to fish usually in Rock Slide Bay located along the north shoreline. Trolling deep with leadlines and Wedding Bands or Dick Nite spoons can also be very effective. Both bait fishing and deep trolling are more productive as the lake water temperature climbs.



FACILITIES: A picnic site, boat launch and outhouses are located in the bay area on the south shoreline. A large private campground is on the eastern shoreline and also a campground on the Coquihalla River within 1 km (.6 mi) of the lake.

DIRECTIONS: Accessible from the Coquihalla Hwy north of Hope. Take the Kawkawa Lake/Peers Creek exit and proceed south towards the town of Hope for about 2.5 km (1.5 mi).

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.



CAUTION: Do not use this map for navigational purposes.
This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.