Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Dardanelle / AR River area

Dardanelle / AR River

Arkansas
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Largemouth · Spotted

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

8/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
~ 11°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 5–5 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **62–68°F**, lows **33–44°F**, rain chance up to **~0%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

62° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NE 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:48 AM / 5:06 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

TUESDAY NOV 17

63° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	E 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:49 AM / 5:05 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

68° F high

LOW	44°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	ESE 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:50 AM / 5:04 PM

Frame: Stable day — first-light moving bait, then slow down around shade and cover once the sun is up.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NE → E → ESE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:48 AM CST) → ~9 AM**
- Use any ripple as cover

MIDDAY

- Shade lines, docks, deeper edges
- Electronics for bait height first
- Slow down once the sun is overhead

EVENING

- Revisit shallow shade as sun drops
- Topwater if the surface lays down
- Weekday traffic is lighter — work quiet pockets

FALL TRANSITION **Largemouth plan: Follow shad into the backs of creeks and flats 1-10 ft; spinnerbait, squarebill and topwater at a fast pace.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Largemouth are in the fall transition — following bait into creeks and onto flats as water cools.

Basis: estimated water ~60°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a river (10-day response), adjusted by 1 nearby USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

Threadfin and gizzard shad are the main food on Dardanelle, and in fall they start drifting back toward the backs and shallow points.

ALSO BITING

Crappie: brush piles and deeper standing timber with small jigs and minnows at dawn and dusk; the bite should improve as nights cool. Catfish: channel and blue cat feed well on this river pool; cut bait on deep channel swings and points.

PRESSURE

Weekday traffic — lighter than the weekend. Fish early, give ramps and swim areas room.

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. Generation schedule and flows below are copied from the operator as posted at the Cast pull — schedules change; re-check the operator page the morning you fish. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Dardanelle Lock & Dam	Mon 11/16: 4 AM - 6 AM CT 35 MW, 6 AM - 8 AM CT 100 MW, 8 AM - noon CT 35 MW, noon - 1 PM CT 70 MW, 1 PM - 2 PM CT 35 MW · Tue 11/17: schedule not posted yet · Wed 11/18: schedule not posted yet — Southwestern Power Administration generation schedule	USACE (power marketed by Southwestern Power Administration)
Ozark-Jeta Taylor Lock & Dam	Mon 11/16: 5 AM - 9 AM CT 60 MW, 3 PM - 6 PM CT 60 MW · Tue 11/17: schedule not posted yet · Wed 11/18: schedule not posted yet — Southwestern Power Administration generation schedule	USACE (power marketed by Southwestern Power Administration)
Permit / regs	The best public bank access for this product is Old Post Road Park in Russellville (Pope County), where day-use parking and public shoreline put you within a short walk of rocky points, riprap, and shallow coves on Lake Dardanelle.	
Clarity	Pool clarity should hold; shallow points warm fastest on calm mornings.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The best public bank access for this product is Old Post Road Park in Russellville (Pope County), where day-use parking and public shoreline put you within a short walk of rocky points, riprap, and shallow coves on Lake Dardanelle. Confirm USACE day-use rules and any seasonal closures before you go.

KAYAK

Launch from the Old Post Road Park boat ramp when the lane is usable at current pool level, and confirm with USACE recreation notices that the ramp is open before you load up.

BOAT

Launch early from Old Post Road Park or another open USACE ramp on the Dardanelle pool and plan the morning in three steps. Mid-morning, move to brush piles, rock transitions, and boat-dock rows in the backs. By late morning, use electronics to find bass on deeper points and channel swings, and fish jigs and Carolina rigs slowly.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait in bone or chrome at dawn on main-lake points, especially calm. Popper over submerged brush in the arms. Buzzbait in white along a lightly rippled point face on the first hour.

MID

White or white-chartreuse spinnerbait on breezy or rippled points. Shad-colored squarebill on riprap and rock transitions. Soft swimbait on a light jighead for bass suspended over brush when the sun is high.

BOTTOM

Green pumpkin Texas-rigged creature bait in brush. Brown or green football jig on point drops. Drop shot with a natural minnow-style worm on deeper ledges during the slick, bright middle of.