Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Gardner Lake area

Gardner Lake

Connecticut
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Eastern Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

9/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 7–9 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **52–61°F**, lows **30–36°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

52° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 5–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:28 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

56° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 3–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:39 AM / 4:27 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

61° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:40 AM / 4:26 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NW → W · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:38 AM EST) → ~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 **Smallmouth plan: Cover rock flats and points 5-20 ft as fish feed up; jerkbait, swimbait and blade bait at a moderate-to-fast pace.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

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

Basis: estimated water ~55°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: No dated forage report for this window turned up. The most likely meals are young perch and shiners where present, bluegill and sunfish around docks and weed edges, and crawfish on rock and gravel.

ALSO BITING

Also hot: Chain pickerel on the same weed edges you fish for bass, and yellow perch and crappie schooling over flats and brush as water cools. Check current state rules before you keep fish.

PRESSURE

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

WATER BOARD — LAKE CHEAT SHEET

FIXED Natural / small-impoundment water — no generation table. Check access rules and level notes with the managing agency before you go.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Clarity	Clarity is unconfirmed, so start with natural shad and bluegill colors and darken only if banks stain.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The Gardner Lake Boat Launch at 126 Old Colchester Road in Salem sits at the south end with a fixed dock and parking. Fish the shoreline near the launch where the six-foot shoal of gravel and rock drops away. The lake is very clear, so go light, with long casts using a fluke or drop-shot on thin line.

KAYAK

Launch at the Old Colchester Road ramp and paddle to the slow-no-wake water between Minnie Island and the eastern shore, the calmest stretch on the lake. The clear water makes sight fishing and dawn topwater work. Points along the eastern shoreline hold smallmouth, so drift them with a tube.

BOAT

Start at the weedy north end for largemouth with a swim jig, then work the points along the eastern shoreline for smallmouth. The deepest water, about 42 feet, is a small basin near Minnie Island, so check it at midday with a drop-shot. Follow the well-defined shoal that rings the lake at about six feet.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking topwater (bone / white) at first light. Hollow-body frog (white or black) over pads. Buzzbait along reed and grass edges.

MID

Bladed jig or spinnerbait (white / chartreuse shad). Squarebill crankbait (craw / shad) on wood and riprap. Swim jig through thin grass.

BOTTOM

Texas-rigged worm (green pumpkin / junebug). Flipping jig or creature bait in the thickest cover. Wacky or Ned rig on isolated targets.