Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Highland Lake area

Highland 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	+ 8–9 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **45–55°F**, lows **31–36°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

45° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	NW 9 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:43 AM / 4:30 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

50° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 6–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:44 AM / 4:29 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

55° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 3–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:45 AM / 4:29 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:43 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: Go subsurface and a notch slower: edges of drop-offs, rocky points and bluff ends between the fall flats and the 20-40 ft winter depth; jerkbait with pauses, small jig or hula grub on the bottom, blade bait ripped off the bottom on points.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the late fall transition — water in the low-to-mid 50s, so they are staging on drop-off edges, points and bends between their summer spots and the deep wintering holes.

Basis: estimated water ~52°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

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.

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

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 Highland Lake Boat Launch at 297 West Lake Street in Winchester sits in First Bay with a fixed dock. Fish the public shoreline near the launch with a crayfish-colored jig, because the lake is loaded with big crayfish. The Taylor Brook mouth is closed to fishing through Oct 15 as a cold-water refuge, so skip it this week.

KAYAK

Launch in First Bay and use the narrows between the three bays for wind-protected paddling. Work weed edges in First Bay with a wacky-rigged stick bait, then slip through the narrows into Second Bay. Give the closed Taylor Brook mouth a wide berth until Oct 15.

BOAT

Highland covers 445 acres in three bays joined by narrows. The deepest hole, 60 feet or more, is in Second Bay, and the steepest drops, past 40 feet, run along Second Bay's western shore and Third Bay's eastern shore. Work those breaks with a crayfish jig or drop-shot as the sun climbs.

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.