Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Mansfield Hollow Lake area

Mansfield Hollow Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

9/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 6–8 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–61°F**, lows **25–35°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

51° F high

LOW	25°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 2–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:27 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	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 1–6 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.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

61° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 5–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:41 AM / 4:25 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: 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 ~54°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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE NAE for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 — check the operator page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Mansfield Hollow Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE NAE for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 212.40 ft (Mon 3:30 AM CT)	USACE NAE
Clarity	Clarity is unconfirmed, so start with natural shad and bluegill colors and darken only if banks stain.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Mansfield Hollow State Park and the launch on Bassetts Bridge Road give public shoreline on both basins; the road splits the reservoir into a north and a south basin joined by a culvert. Work weed edges and wood with a spinnerbait, then a worm. Bass here fall under a 12-to-16-inch protected slot, so release anything in that range.

KAYAK

From the Bassetts Bridge Road launch, head to the Fenton River inlet in the northwest corner and paddle up through the Route 89 tunnel until the riffles stop you. The Mount Hope River inlet in the northeast corner turns shallow and rocky quickly, so keep that run short.

BOAT

The north end of the north basin is heavily weeded, so start there with a swim jig and a frog for largemouth. Then fish the Natchaug, Fenton, and Mount Hope inflows as the sun climbs. DEEP manages the lake for northern pike, so expect bite-offs and carry a heavier leader.

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.