Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Saltonstall area

Lake Saltonstall

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 **31–37°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	31°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 5–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:40 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

56° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 3–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:41 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

61° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 3–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:42 AM / 4:28 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 (6:40 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

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
Permit / regs	Fog is possible on cool, calm mornings — run slowly with lights on until it lifts Lake Saltonstall is a Regional Water Authority reservoir, so you need an RWA recreation permit plus a Connecticut fishing license.	
Clarity	Clarity is unconfirmed, so start with natural shad and bluegill colors and darken only if banks stain.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Lake Saltonstall is a Regional Water Authority reservoir, so you need an RWA recreation permit plus a Connecticut fishing license. Enter at the central gate off Hosley Avenue in Branford, which is closest to the fishing access and has an accessible floating pier.

KAYAK

Personal kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards are not allowed on Lake Saltonstall, so paddlers fish only from RWA rental boats at the Hosley Avenue gate. That program is seasonal, so confirm it is running this week before you go.

BOAT

Private boats are not allowed, so a boat day here means an RWA rental from the Hosley Avenue gate. The north half drops to about 100 feet beneath Saltonstall Ridge, so work its steep edges with a jig or drop-shot. The shallower south end, toward the I-95 crossing and Lake Saltonstall Dam, is the better morning flat for a swimbait.

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.