Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Hartwell area

Hartwell

Georgia
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Eastern Time · Largemouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

8/10 — 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 · turnover	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **59–66°F**, lows **40–45°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

59° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NE 5–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:05 AM / 5:26 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	42°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NE 6–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:06 AM / 5:25 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

66° F high

LOW	45°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NE 6–9 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:07 AM / 5:25 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 · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING
- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:05 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 **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. Possible turnover window on stratified reservoirs — the bite can go off for a few days.

Basis: estimated water ~61°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 / natural forage: Blueback herring and threadfin shad drive the bite; schooling fish on points at dawn are a herring signal. Crawfish on rock remain a steady bottom option.

ALSO BITING

Striped and hybrid bass chase herring in open water, and crappie stack on brush and bridges as water cools. South Carolina and Georgia honor each other's licenses on the main lake; confirm boundaries and creel on the live SCDNR page.

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 Savannah District / SEPA 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
Hartwell Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE Savannah District / SEPA for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Generating now: no units running at last reading (5 units reporting) (Sun 10:00 PM CT) Observed: pool 647.57 ft (Sun 11/15); 24-h average discharge 0 cfs (Sat 11/14)	USACE Savannah District / SEPA
Permit / regs	South Carolina and Georgia honor each other's licenses on the main lake; confirm boundaries and creel on the live SCDNR page.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start on public shoreline at Sadlers Creek State Park (park fees and hours may apply), and stay off private docks and yards. The low light is the time to walk a shady point with a walking bait or buzzbait. Pick a bank the wind blows into, if it is safe, and throw a spinnerbait or squarebill.

KAYAK

Launch at Sadlers Creek State Park and keep paddles short to creek mouths and secondary points. If there is fog, stay close to shore, carry a light, and listen for boats. The northeast breeze decides your day; fish protected creek arms and drift pocket mouths instead of crossing open water.

BOAT

Hartwell's points and humps are best reached by boat; electronics help find brush and herring schools. Launch at Sadlers Creek State Park and spend the first hour on topwater or a waking bait along points and bait slicks, then work 8–18 ft rock and brush with a jerkbait or football jig.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait or buzzbait in bone or chrome on slick dawn points when bait is dimpling, best on the calmest morning of the window. Popper around dock shade. Keep a waking swimbait ready whenever birds or surfacing bait show over open water.

MID

Spinnerbait and chatterbait in white/chartreuse or shad tones on wind-blown banks. Squarebill on shallow wood and rock. Jerkbait in natural shad or herring colors on clearer main-lake rock once the sun is up.

BOTTOM

Football jig or creature bait in green pumpkin or candy craw on 8–18 ft rock and brush. Texas-rigged stickbait for brush and dock posts. Drop shot or Ned rig for tough midday spells under full sun.