FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Clinton Lake area

Clinton Lake

Illinois

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Largemouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **55–60°F**, lows **34–43°F**, rain chance up to **~0%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

55° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 2–6 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:41 AM / 4:38 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

57° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 5–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:43 AM / 4:37 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

60° F high

LOW	43°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 8–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:44 AM / 4:36 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SSW → S · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:41 AM CST) → ~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.

Basis: estimated water ~56°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

Cool nights in the upper 40s will keep pulling the main lake down, while the warm-water arm stays warmer and draws shad. What's on the menu: Gizzard and threadfin shad are the main forage, with crawfish on the riprap and bluegill around the wood.

ALSO BITING

Largemouth — primary; riprap, points and channel bends. White bass — schooling on shad on calm mornings.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Confirm	Illinois DNR fishing	dnr.illinois.gov
Permit / regs	Regulations: check current Illinois DNR fishing rules before keeping fish, since site rules on Clinton can differ from statewide limits.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank anglers have the most room at Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, where shoreline points, riprap and fishing areas near the ramps let you reach deeper water from shore. The riprap near the dam on the west end is another good spot.

KAYAK

Is the paddle day. Launch at Clinton Lake State Recreation Area and stay in the protected coves and creek arms, working laydowns and brush with a jig or a Texas-rigged creature bait for largemouth. Stay well away from the plant's restricted water and any posted buoys.

BOAT

Clinton fishes like a mid-size reservoir with two long creek arms and a warm-water arm that matters more every week this fall. At first light, start on riprap and main-lake points with a squarebill, spinnerbait or walking bait.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait on calm mornings. Buzzbait along riprap and wood. Popper for schooling white bass.

MID

Spinnerbait or lipless crankbait on wind. Squarebill on riprap. Small spoon or in-line spinner for white bass.

BOTTOM

Jig on channel bends and brush. Drop shot or Texas-rigged worm on humps. Jig and minnow for walleye on points.