FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Fox Chain O'Lakes area

Fox Chain O'Lakes

Illinois

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10

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 **53–57°F**, lows **34–44°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

53° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SW 0–10 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.

TUESDAY NOV 17

56° F high

LOW	38°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:45 AM / 4:28 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

57° F high

LOW	44°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:46 AM / 4:28 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:44 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: Slow down: steep points, channel drops and remaining grass just outside the creeks, between the fall flats and the 15-30 ft winter depth; suspending jerkbait with long pauses, jig-and-pig or blade bait crawled down the slope.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Largemouth are in the late fall transition — water under the mid-50s, so bass are sliding off the shallow flats toward steeper points and channel drops near their fall feeding areas.

Basis: estimated water ~53°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Largemouth are moving to the outside weed edges to feed on baitfish, walleye are moving shallower at dawn and dusk and muskie are becoming more active as the water cools. What's on the menu: Gizzard shad, shiners and young bluegill and perch make up most of th

ALSO BITING

Largemouth — primary; weed edges, docks and drop-offs. Walleye — points and drop-offs early and late.

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 — 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 the Chain can differ from statewide limits.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank anglers have the most room at Chain O'Lakes State Park near Spring Grove, where shoreline along Grass Lake, Nippersink Lake and the Fox River lets you reach weed edges and channel drop-offs. The public area near the Stratton Lock and Dam at McHenry is another option for current-loving fish.

KAYAK

Are the paddle days. Launch at Chain O'Lakes State Park and stay in quieter bays and backwaters off Grass Lake, Nippersink Lake and the Fox River. Work weed edges and docks with a weedless swimbait or Texas-rigged soft plastic for largemouth.

BOAT

The Chain fishes like a network of connected natural lakes, each with its own weeds, docks and drop-offs. At first light, start on weed flats and docks in the bigger lakes like Fox Lake, Pistakee Lake and Channel Lake with a spinnerbait, bladed jig or lipless crankbait.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait over weed edges at dawn. Buzzbait along docks and shallow weeds. Popper in quiet bays at dusk.

MID

Spinnerbait or bladed jig on weed edges. Lipless crankbait over submerged weeds. Bucktail for muskie.

BOTTOM

Texas-rigged worm on deeper weed lines. Jig on drop-offs and docks. Jig and minnow for walleye on points.