FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Heidecke Lake area

Heidecke Lake

Illinois

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
~ 11°F swing	+ 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 **34–45°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	Patchy Fog then Sunny
WIND	SSW 0–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:42 AM / 4:33 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

58° F high

LOW	38°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:43 AM / 4:32 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	45°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 5–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:45 AM / 4:31 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 (6:42 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 **Smallmouth plan: Cover rock flats and points 5-20 ft as fish feed up; jerkbait, swimbait and blade bait at a moderate-to-fast pace.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the fall transition — following bait into creeks and onto flats as water cools.

Basis: estimated water ~55°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

Shad are schooling in open water and along the dikes, hybrids and white bass are chasing them, walleye are moving up on the rock at dawn and dusk, and smallmouth are feeding along the dikes. What's on the menu: Gizzard shad are the main forage, with smaller ba

ALSO BITING

Hybrid striped bass — co-primary; surface schools and dikes. Walleye — co-primary; dikes at dawn and dusk.

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 and Heidecke's site-specific rules before fishing or keeping fish.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank anglers should head to the Heidecke Lake Bank Fishing Area off East Collins Road, which IDNR keeps open even on days when boat fishing is closed for wind. The rock along the dike drops off quickly, so you can reach deeper water from shore.

KAYAK

Is the only good paddle day. Check IDNR's site rules on which watercraft are allowed before you go. If you paddle, launch from the IDNR boat launch, stay close to the dikes and fish swimbaits and spoons along the rock for hybrids and walleye.

BOAT

Heidecke fishes like a deep, clear bowl ringed by rock dikes, with bait schools roaming open water. At first light, run the dikes and watch for hybrids and white bass busting shad; cast spoons, swimbaits or topwater into the action.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait or popper over surface schools. Topwater along the dikes at dawn. Prop bait on calm morning.

MID

Swimbait or spoon for hybrids. Crankbait trolled along the dikes for walleye. Soft jerkbait for smallmouth on the rock.

BOTTOM

Blade bait or jigging spoon on bait schools. Tube or Ned rig on dike rock. Jig and minnow for walleye at dusk.