FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Kinkaid Lake area

Kinkaid Lake

Illinois

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

9/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 3–7 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **58–64°F**, lows **34–42°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

58° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	ENE 0–3 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:45 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

61° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:39 AM / 4:45 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

64° F high

LOW	42°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 2–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:40 AM / 4:44 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: ENE → SSE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:38 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 ~58°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 moving into the creek arms, largemouth are following them onto points and timber, and muskie are getting more active as the water cools. What's on the menu: Gizzard and threadfin shad are the main forage, with crawfish on the rock and bluegill around

ALSO BITING

Largemouth — primary; rocky points, bluffs and timber. Muskie — fall bite starting on rock and timber edges.

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 Kinkaid can differ from statewide limits.	
Clarity	In clear water under bright sun, fish will hold deeper and tighter to cover at midday, so plan around dawn and dusk.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank anglers can reach rock and deep water at the Kinkaid Lake spillway area and around the Kinkaid Lake Marina, where the shoreline drops quickly. The Johnson Creek Recreation Area in Shawnee National Forest also has shoreline you can walk.

KAYAK

Is the paddle day. Launch at Johnson Creek Recreation Area or the marina ramp, and paddle into the long creek arms where standing timber and rocky banks meet. Pitch a jig or a Texas-rigged creature bait to wood for largemouth, and keep a light line and a small soft plastic for spooky fish in the clear water.

BOAT

Kinkaid fishes like a deep, clear highland-style lake with bluffs, rocky points and flooded timber in the creek arms. At first light, start on main-lake points and bluff ends with a jerkbait, walking bait or small swimbait.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait on calm points at dawn. Weightless soft stick along shade. Popper near timber at dusk.

MID

Suspending jerkbait on rocky points. Small swimbait on a light jighead. Bucktail or glide bait for muskie.

BOTTOM

Ned rig or shaky head on rock. Drop shot on bluff walls and timber. Football jig on channel swings.