FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Sara area

Lake Sara

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	+ 2–9 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **55–61°F**, lows **32–41°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

55° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:39 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	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 1–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:39 AM / 4:38 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

61° F high

LOW	41°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSE 3–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:40 AM / 4:38 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: 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

Glassy midday water pushes fish tight to shade and cover around Effingham County. By, expect fish at Lake Sara to settle into predictable shade lines you can re-hit without a long run.

ALSO BITING

Crappie can show on a slow midday drop along the first break near Lake Sara public ramp (Effingham County). Bluegill mix on the same shade lines you fish for bass — keep a light jig ready as a bonus cast.

PRESSURE

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

WATER BOARD — LAKE CHEAT SHEET

FIXED Natural / small-impoundment water — no generation table. Check access rules and level notes with the managing agency before you go.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Confirm park hours, trailer parking, and any day-use notices posted at the gate before you leave a vehicle overnight at Lake Sara.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank fishing starts at Lake Sara public ramp (Effingham County), where you can reach riprap, weed edges, and the first break off the public ramp within a short walk of the truck. Work a soft stickbait or weightless fluke along shade lines, then pitch a compact jig into the nearest cover.

KAYAK

Kayak anglers should launch at Lake Sara public ramp (Effingham County) and hug the protected shoreline rather than crossing open water when a breeze is up. The calmest middle of the weekday window is usually the cleanest paddle day: start on windward points with a spinnerbait, then slip into protected pockets for a wacky rig.

BOAT

Trailers use Lake Sara public ramp (Effingham County) — launch, clear the lane, and idle out before you plane. At first light, run points, edges, and secondary drops with a squarebill or spinnerbait, then slow down with a Texas-rigged beaver when the sun climbs.

LURE BOX

TOP

Medium crankbait.

MID

Flipping jig. Creature bait. Senko-style stick.

BOTTOM

Light drop-shot. Stain/clear: On stained water at Lake Sara, lean chartreuse and black/blue; on clearer afternoons, natural green pumpkin and translucent stickbaits get more looks. Match lure size to the forage you see along Lake Sara public ramp (Effingham County).