FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

**Weather**
National Weather Service forecast for Otter Lake area

# Otter 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 **51–58°F**, lows **41–50°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

**51°** F high

| | |
|---|---|
| LOW | 41°F |
| SKY | Sunny |
| WIND | SSW 5–10 mph |
| RAIN | ~0% |
| SUN | — |

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

### TUESDAY NOV 17

**53°** F high

| | |
|---|---|
| LOW | 44°F |
| SKY | Sunny |
| WIND | SSW 10–15 mph |
| RAIN | ~0% |
| SUN | — |

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

### WEDNESDAY NOV 18

**58°** F high

| | |
|---|---|
| LOW | 50°F |
| SKY | Mostly Sunny |
| WIND | S 10–15 mph |
| RAIN | ~0% |
| SUN | — |

*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 (first light 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 ~57°F — statewide median of 25 lake estimates from the observed air record (NOAA ACIS) — no coordinates on file for this lake; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

### NATURAL FORAGE

**What's on the menu: Shad and bluegill on points and wood — chrome/white early, green-pumpkin plastics later.**

### ALSO BITING

**Crappie on the same timber with a small jig if you slow down. Catfish after dark near deeper wood if you stay late.**

### 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 | On Otter Lake, verify trailer parking and any day-use rules before you leave the lot. | |
| Clarity | Water clarity / depth. | |

## ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

### BANK

Bank fishing starts at IFish Illinois boat-ramp point. Surface is not recorded in the layer. Where a lake has more than one ramp, this is the point farthest inside Illinois.

### KAYAK

Kayak anglers should launch at the same public access — IFish Illinois boat-ramp point. Surface is not recorded in the layer. Where a lake has more than one ramp, this is the point farthest inside Illinois — and hug the protected shoreline rather than crossing open water when a breeze is up.

### BOAT

Trailers use the public ramp at IFish Illinois boat-ramp point. Surface is not recorded in the layer. Where a lake has more than one ramp, this is the point farthest inside Illinois — launch, clear the lane, and idle out before you plane.

## LURE BOX

### TOP

Buzzbait or walking bait at dawn and on slick evenings. Popper over isolated wood when the afternoon breeze dies.

### MID

Spinnerbait or squarebill on points. Bladed jig when stain bumps after wind or traffic.

### BOTTOM

Texas-rigged creature in timber. Shaky head or wacky rig on the outside edge. Stain/clear: Stained to moderately clear — bump contrast if wind dirties a point.