Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Rend Lake area

Rend Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

9/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 3–9 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **57–63°F**, lows **37–46°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

57° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	E 0–3 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:37 AM / 4:43 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	41°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 1–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:42 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

63° F high

LOW	46°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 3–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:39 AM / 4:42 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:37 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 ~57°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

Bass are starting to follow shad into the creek arms and onto shallow wood, and crappie are moving onto brush and standing timber in the 8–14 ft range. What's on the menu: Gizzard and threadfin shad are the main forage, with bluegill around the wood and crawfi

ALSO BITING

Largemouth — primary; shallow wood, riprap and brush. Crappie — co-primary; brush piles and standing timber 8–14 ft.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 — check the operator page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Rend Dam	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: observed flow at USGS 05595952 (Big Muddy River Below Rend Lake Nr Benton, Il) 54 cfs (Mon 4:00 AM CT)	the operator
Confirm	Illinois DNR fishing	dnr.illinois.gov
Permit / regs	Regulations: check current Illinois DNR fishing rules before keeping fish, since site rules on Rend can differ from statewide limits.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The best bank access on Rend is at Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area, where the Route 154 causeway riprap and nearby points let you reach rock and wood from shore, and along the riprap at the dam on the south end of the lake near Benton. Fish the wind-blown side of the riprap with a squarebill or a spinnerbait.

KAYAK

Is the paddle day. Launch at North Marcum or South Marcum, or at the Gun Creek area ramps, and stay in the coves and creek arms where the standing timber and stumps are. Pitch a light jig or a Texas-rigged creature bait into the wood for largemouth, and drop a jig and minnow straight down beside timber for crappie.

BOAT

Rend fishes like a big, shallow timber lake with long creek arms. At first light, start on stump flats and the shallow ends of points in the Gun Creek and Casey Fork arms with a squarebill, spinnerbait or buzzbait.

LURE BOX

TOP

Buzzbait on stump flats at dawn. Walking bait on the calm water. Popper along riprap and laydowns.

MID

Squarebill on wood and riprap. Spinnerbait on the wind. Weightless soft stick for spooky fish.

BOTTOM

Jig in green pumpkin or black and blue. Texas-rigged worm or creature bait in brush. Jig and minnow for crappie on timber.