FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Sam Dale area

Sam Dale

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 Sam Dale 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.