FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Springfield area

Lake Springfield

Illinois

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

8/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
~ 11°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 3–12 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **56–61°F**, lows **34–45°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

56° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 0–3 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:43 AM / 4:42 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

58° F high

LOW	38°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 3–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:45 AM / 4:41 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	45°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 5–12 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:46 AM / 4:40 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: S · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:43 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

Shad are moving into the creek arms, largemouth are following them onto docks and wood, and crappie are settling onto brush. What's on the menu: Gizzard shad are the main forage, with bluegill around the docks and crawfish on the riprap.

ALSO BITING

Largemouth — primary; docks, riprap and brush. Crappie — brush and dock ends 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
Spaulding Dam	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: observed flow at USGS 05576250 (Sugar Creek Near Springfield, Il) 20 cfs (Mon 3:30 AM CT)	the operator
Confirm	Illinois DNR fishing	dnr.illinois.gov
Permit / regs	Regulations: check current Illinois DNR fishing rules and City Water, Light and Power's lake rules before fishing or keeping fish.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank anglers can reach deeper water from the riprap near Spaulding Dam on the north end of the lake, and from the public parks and shoreline along East Lake Drive. At dawn, throw a squarebill, spinnerbait or small swimbait along the rock for largemouth and white bass.

KAYAK

Is the paddle day. Launch at a public ramp on the lake and head into the Sugar Creek or Lick Creek arms, where the coves, wood and docks are protected from wind and boat wakes. Pitch a jig or Texas-rigged creature bait to wood and dock posts for largemouth, and drop a small jig beside brush for crappie.

BOAT

Lake Springfield fishes like a city reservoir with lots of docks, riprap and two long creek arms. At first light, start on riprap, points and shallow docks with a walking bait, squarebill or spinnerbait.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait along docks at dawn. Buzzbait on riprap and wood. Popper for schooling white bass.

MID

Squarebill or spinnerbait on wind-touched banks. Small swimbait on a light jighead. Small spoon or in-line spinner for white bass.

BOTTOM

Jig skipped under docks. Texas-rigged worm or drop shot on brush. Small jig or minnow for crappie.