Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Rathbun Lake area

Rathbun Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Fair odds

4/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
~ 11°F swing	+ No lightning	− Up to 20 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~10%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **56–61°F**, lows **37–48°F**, rain chance up to **~10%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

56° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 3–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:00 AM / 4:52 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	42°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 7–13 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:01 AM / 4:52 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

61° F high

LOW	48°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 13–20 mph
RAIN	~10%
SUN	7:02 AM / 4:51 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:00 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: Slow down: steep points, channel drops and remaining grass just outside the creeks, between the fall flats and the 15-30 ft winter depth; suspending jerkbait with long pauses, jig-and-pig or blade bait crawled down the slope.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Largemouth are in the late fall transition — water under the mid-50s, so bass are sliding off the shallow flats toward steeper points and channel drops near their fall feeding areas.

Basis: estimated water ~55°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Pressure on Rathbun should stay lighter than a weekend, but Honey Creek State Park shoreline and the Island View ramp corridor still see evening traffic after work.

ALSO BITING

White bass and crappie are the bonus mix when birds work open water over Chariton channel swings or along Island View points — keep a small spoon or small crank ready, but do not abandon the largemouth timber plan.

PRESSURE

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

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM 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
Rathbun Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 905.94 ft (Mon 3:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 1,002 cfs (Sun 6:00 AM CT)	USACE NWDM
Permit / regs	Bass regs (Iowa statewide inland summary): black bass 15-inch minimum length, 3 fish daily creel.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Walk the posted shoreline at Honey Creek State Park, then rotate to Buck Creek recreation banks and the Island View–area public banks when the sun climbs.

KAYAK

Launch from the Honey Creek or Island View launches and stay inside the Honey and Buck creek arms for this window. The light south breeze is perfect for a silent paddle along flooded standing timber — parallel the wood, then stake out on the best outside edge once the sun clears the ridges.

BOAT

Run out from the Island View, Buck Creek, or Bridgeview ramps. Graph Chariton River old-channel swings and flooded timber before you burn fuel on a long dam run — the rising pool has fish relating to timber lines that were high and dry.

LURE BOX

TOP

One walking topwater for calm dawn shad activity. Skip bulky frogs until you find matted cover — most of the productive wood is vertical standing timber.

MID

Pack a weightless stickbait in green pumpkin. A 1/2-oz spinnerbait or squarebill for the windblown rock.

BOTTOM

A compact flipping jig with a craw trailer. A Texas-rig creature for thicker Honey Creek wood. A shaky head or drop-shot for clear midday water on channel swings.