Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for China Lake area

China Lake

Maine

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Eastern Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

9/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 5–5 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **47–56°F**, lows **27–34°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

47° F high

LOW	27°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 0–5 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:35 AM / 4:10 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

52° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SW 5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:36 AM / 4:09 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

56° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	W 5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:08 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NW → SW → W · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:35 AM EST) → ~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 **Smallmouth plan: Go subsurface and a notch slower: edges of drop-offs, rocky points and bluff ends between the fall flats and the 20-40 ft winter depth; jerkbait with pauses, small jig or hula grub on the bottom, blade bait ripped off the bottom on points.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the late fall transition — water in the low-to-mid 50s, so they are staging on drop-off edges, points and bends between their summer spots and the deep wintering holes.

Basis: estimated water ~51°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Yellow perch, white perch, and crayfish are the main fall forage on China Lake, so perch-colored jerkbaits and swimbaits and brown or green pumpkin tubes match best.

ALSO BITING

Largemouth bass. Largemouth hold on weed edges and docks, especially in the west basin.

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 — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Confirm	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	maine.gov
Clarity	Color match: Use perch, crayfish brown, and green pumpkin in clear water.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shore access on China Lake is limited, since most shoreline is private. The public boat launch area in China village at the north end of the lake is the most practical place to fish from shore where posted. Cast a tube or a small jerkbait along any rock within reach, and fish late morning to afternoon after cold nights.

KAYAK

Paddle when the wind lies down. Launch at the China village boat launch and work the rocky shoreline and drop-offs of the east basin, or head to the Narrows, where structure is close together. A tube, a Ned rig, or a small swimbait will find smallmouth.

BOAT

Launch at the public ramp in China village. Fish protected rock and docks out of the wind. Run rocky points, drop-offs, and the Narrows with a jerkbait or a swimbait in the late morning, then slow down with a tube or a drop-shot on deeper rock in the afternoon.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait over rocky points on the calm Small popper along shoreline rock late in the day. Wake bait across shallow shoals when the wind lies down.

MID

Suspending jerkbait (perch or ghost shiner) on points. Small swimbait counted down along drop-offs. Lipless crankbait on windblown rock when it is safe.

BOTTOM

Tube (green pumpkin or brown) dragged on rock. Drop-shot with a small minnow or worm for fish on the graph. Ned rig or football jig near deep boulders.