Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Quabbin Reservoir area

Quabbin Reservoir

Massachusetts
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	+ 6–7 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **48–58°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

48° F high

LOW	27°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	NW 3–7 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:41 AM / 4:26 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	W 1–6 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:42 AM / 4:25 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

58° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 3–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:43 AM / 4:25 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:41 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), adjusted by 1 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

Nights in the upper 30s will cool the upper water quickly, and that cooling tends to push baitfish and smallmouth together on rocky points, gravel bars, and the drop-offs next to them. What's on the menu: No local forage report was available for this Cast wind

ALSO BITING

Lake trout · landlocked salmon. Quabbin is best known for its lake trout and landlocked salmon.

PRESSURE

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

USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

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
Quabbin Spillway	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: observed flow at USGS 01175500 (Swift River At West Ware, Ma) 122 cfs (Mon 3:15 AM CT)	the operator
Clarity	Expect clear water on the main reservoir.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shore fishing at Quabbin is allowed only in DCR-designated areas reached through the numbered gates, such as Gate 8 in Petersham, Gate 31 in New Salem, and Gate 43 in Hardwick. Walk-in trails can be long, so pack light. Pick a rocky point the west wind is blowing into and work a tube or a small swimbait along the bottom.

KAYAK

Canoes and kayaks are limited to specific DCR-designated areas at Quabbin, so check the current rules before you bring one. The steady northwest wind still calls for caution, while the lighter morning is the best paddling window.

BOAT

Boats launch from the DCR boat launch areas, including Gate 8 in Petersham and Gate 31 in New Salem, under DCR's motor, boat-size, and inspection rules; confirm them before you trailer. Use your electronics to find smallmouth and bait on points and humps, then fish a jig or drop shot there.

LURE BOX

TOP

Topwater is fading with the cold nights, but a walking bait can still draw strikes on a calm morning over shallow rock. Skip it on windy and cold.

MID

A suspending jerkbait is the classic fall Quabbin smallmouth bait in cold, clear water. Work it with long pauses along points. A small swimbait or a spinnerbait is a good choice in the wind.

BOTTOM

Tubes, Ned rigs, and drop shots on rock and gravel are the most reliable baits this week, especially after the cold nights. Fish them slowly and keep contact with the bottom. Clear water, natural colors: Quabbin is known for very clear water, and falling river flows keep it that way.