Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Grand Traverse Bay area

Grand Traverse Bay

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

8/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–56°F**, lows **44–49°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

51° F high

LOW	44°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:40 AM / 5:12 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

54° F high

LOW	46°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:41 AM / 5:11 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

56° F high

LOW	49°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:43 AM / 5:10 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:40 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 ~52°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: No dated forage report turned up for this exact window. Gobies, small baitfish, and crayfish are the usual fall foods on Grand Traverse rock, and marks of bait on the graph near a point are the best sign of a feeding school.

ALSO BITING

Lake trout · salmon. Lake trout: deep water off the East and West Arm breaks for anglers with downriggers or heavy jigs.

PRESSURE

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

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

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
Clarity	Deep, clear water with steep drops and rock shelves toward Elk Rapids.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Clinch Park in downtown Traverse City and the nearby Boardman River mouth give walk-in anglers access to rock, sand, and the West Arm drop within casting range, and the Elk Rapids harbor area offers public shoreline on the East Arm.

KAYAK

Kayakers should launch only at posted public access, such as Bowers Harbor on Old Mission Peninsula or the Elmwood Township Marina area on the West Arm, and treat this as big water. Clear water lets you sight-fish rock and sand transitions in the shallows.

BOAT

Launch at the East Arm or West Arm DNR ramps, Bowers Harbor, Elmwood Township Marina, or Elk Rapids based on the day's wind. Run early to points and rock shelves before the south wind builds. Cover the west-facing shorelines and points with jerkbaits, swimbaits, and hair jigs.

LURE BOX

TOP

A walking bait or popper is mostly a calm-morning option this week: dawn before the wind, morning in the lee of the points.

MID

Suspending jerkbaits, soft swimbaits, and small hair jigs over rock and the weed edge. Slow the jerkbait way down; the west breeze is the time to let a swimbait cover water.

BOTTOM

Tubes, Ned rigs, and drop-shot minnows on rock, sand-to-rock edges, and deeper humps. Stain / clear match: The bay stays very clear, so go natural with goby, smoke, and green pumpkin on fluorocarbon. Near the Boardman River mouth or after a hard blow churns a sandy shoreline, darker craw tones are a better bet.