FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Houghton Lake area

Houghton Lake

Michigan

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10

Fair 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 (~0%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **50–54°F**, lows **37–42°F**, rain chance up to **~0%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

50° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:35 AM / 5:11 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

54° F high

LOW	39°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SW 10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:37 AM / 5:10 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

54° F high

LOW	42°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:38 AM / 5:09 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 (7:35 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 **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 ~51°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. Bluegill, perch, small baitfish, and crayfish are the usual fall foods in Houghton Lake grass.

ALSO BITING

Walleye · pike. Walleye: low-light jigging or trolling along weed edges and drop-offs, best at dawn and dusk.

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 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
HOUGHTON LAKE NR HOUGHTON LAKE HEIGHTS, MI	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 1,137.43 ft (Mon 3:15 AM CT)	the operator
Clarity	Stain / clear match: Houghton Lake usually runs lightly stained, and wind-churned shorelines get darker.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The Houghton Lake West, South, and East DNR access sites give walk-in anglers legal shoreline near the boat launches. The northwest wind leaves the west shore calmest, which suits a wacky-rigged stick worm or a small jig fished slowly along the grass. Wait for the frost to burn off and fish late morning into afternoon.

KAYAK

Kayakers can use the hand-launch areas near the Houghton Lake West, South, or East access sites, and should remember that a shallow lake builds steep chop quickly. The northwest breeze makes the west shore the best paddle.

BOAT

Launch at Houghton Lake West, South, or East depending on the wind. Idle the outside grass edge and any open pockets inside the weeds, fishing Texas rigs and jigs slowly on the calmer west side. Start late morning and cover grass flats with spinnerbaits and swim jigs before the south wind builds.

LURE BOX

TOP

Frogs and walking baits over sun-warmed grass afternoons. The frosty start makes topwater a late-day option at best.

MID

Spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, and swim jigs on grass edges and open pockets. Slow them down; the west wind is the time to burn them along windy banks.

BOTTOM

Texas rigs, wacky-rigged stick worms, and small jigs in grass edges and pockets. A drop-shot can pick off fish on the few deeper edges once they slide out after cold nights. Stain / clear match: Houghton Lake usually runs lightly stained, and wind-churned shorelines get darker.