Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Muskegon Lake area

Muskegon Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST — Strong odds

8/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 16 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **50–53°F**, lows **44–48°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	44°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 3–12 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:39 AM / 5:20 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

52° F high

LOW	46°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SW 13 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:40 AM / 5:19 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

53° F high

LOW	48°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 12–16 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:41 AM / 5:18 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:39 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 ~54°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, perch, shiners, and crayfish are the usual fall foods on Muskegon Lake rock, and bait flicking along a seawall or wind-blown point is the tell.

ALSO BITING

Largemouth · pike. Largemouth: weedy and marshy areas toward the east end with Texas rigs and swim 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
Confirm	Managing agency page for this water	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Fisherman's Landing on the south shore has a public fishing pier, and the Hartshorn and Grand Trunk access areas add legal shoreline along the downtown waterfront. The north-northwest breeze puts a light ripple on these south-shore spots, which helps a tube or drop-shot look natural near rock and seawalls.

KAYAK

Kayakers can launch from posted public access at Fisherman's Landing, Cottage Grove, or the Snug Harbor area of Muskegon State Park, and should stay inside the lake and well away from the channel to Lake Michigan. Is the best paddle day, with a light north-northwest breeze. Is workable with a west wind.

BOAT

Launch at Fisherman's Landing, Hartshorn, Cottage Grove, Grand Trunk, or Muskegon State Park's Snug Harbor depending on the wind. Work rock, seawalls, and drop-offs with tubes, Ned rigs, and drop-shots, especially along the south shore.

LURE BOX

TOP

A walking bait or popper is worth a try on calm mornings, especially along rock and weed edges as the air warms.

MID

Suspending jerkbaits, soft swimbaits, and spinnerbaits along rock, seawalls, and weed edges. Pause longer; speed up on the windy banks.

BOTTOM

Tubes, Ned rigs, and drop-shot minnows on rock, seawalls, and the first drop. A football jig covers deeper channel edges when fish slide out after cool nights. Stain / clear match: The western half of the lake near the channel is usually clearer, so go with natural goby, smoke, and green pumpkin there.