FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Mississippi River MO area

Mississippi River MO

Missouri

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Catfish

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	+ 2–5 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **58–63°F**, lows **33–41°F**, rain chance up to **~0%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

58° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NE 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:47 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

61° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SE 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:39 AM / 4:46 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

63° F high

LOW	41°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSE 1–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:40 AM / 4:46 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NE → SE → SSE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:38 AM CST) → ~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 **Catfish plan: Follow shad onto flats and creek channels 5-20 ft; fresh cut shad, drift or anchor.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Catfish are in the fall transition — following bait into creeks and onto flats as water cools.

Basis: water 54°F — USGS river gauge at the lake 07020850 (Mississippi River At Cape Girardeau, Mo, 4 km), 24-h mean to Mon 3:45 AM; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

Gizzard shad and skipjack herring are the main forage for blue catfish on the Mississippi, which is why fresh cut shad and skipjack are the top baits.

ALSO BITING

White bass · drum. White bass can school on shad at dike tips and eddy lines, especially at dawn and dusk; a small spinner or swimbait works.

PRESSURE

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

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
Permit / regs	Missouri and Illinois share this river, so check the Missouri Department of Conservation website for license rules and limits on boundary water.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Red Star Access, the MDC ramp on Water Street just north of downtown Cape Girardeau, has bank room near the ramp with current close by. Fish cut shad or nightcrawlers on a heavy sinker into the eddy below the rock, and use a rod holder. Trail of Tears State Park, north of Cape, offers bank fishing on the river from 7 a.m.

KAYAK

The current, boils and tow wakes can overturn a small boat quickly. Experienced paddlers who launch at Red Star Access should stay in the slack water behind the nearest wing dike on the Missouri bank, stay within sight of the ramp, and wear a PFD at all times.

BOAT

Launch at Red Star Access in Cape Girardeau or the Trail of Tears State Park river ramp; both are usable at the current stage. Run carefully, watch for drift and tows, and fish the scour holes off wing dike tips, channel edges, and rock banks.

LURE BOX

TOP

Not a topwater week for catfish; for white bass, a small popper at dike tips at dawn. Shallow crankbait along rock banks for white bass and drum. Bladed jig or spinner along eddy lines at first light.

MID

Cut shad or skipjack drifted along channel edges for blue cats. Inline spinner or small swimbait at dike tips for white bass. Slip float with nightcrawlers in eddies for channel cats and drum.

BOTTOM

Cut shad on a heavy slip sinker rig above scour holes for blue cats. Live bluegill or shad near wood after dark for flatheads (where legal). Nightcrawlers or punch bait on rock banks for channel cats.