Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Delaware River (NJ) area

Delaware River (NJ)

New Jersey
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	+ 5–10 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **56–63°F**, lows **30–33°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

56° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	NW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:47 AM / 4:42 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

59° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:48 AM / 4:41 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	33°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:49 AM / 4:40 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 (6:47 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 ~49°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a river (10-day response), adjusted by 2 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

Bright sun pushes them tight to shade and depth midday, so expect the best feeding at sunrise and late afternoon rather than all day. What's on the menu: Crawfish and shiners lead the menu, with young shad moving downriver in the fall.

ALSO BITING

Walleye in the deeper runs and eddies; muskellunge in the slower pools. Check NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife rules (the Delaware has NJ–PA reciprocal rules) before you keep fish.

PRESSURE

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

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

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Carry a valid NJ license.	
Clarity	For smallmouth bass, three bluebird days with clear water mean the fish will hold tight to shade, depth, and cover once the sun climbs.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Kingwood Access south of Frenchtown, the Frenchtown riverfront, and Bulls Island in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park — verify parking and access rules live. At sunrise, throw a walking bait or popper over riffles and eddies.

KAYAK

Launch at a posted public access like Kingwood or Bulls Island and plan a float with a pickup point downstream, or paddle upstream first in slower stretches. The breeze can slow progress on open stretches. Morning are calm paddling days — fish seams and eddies with a tube or small swimbait.

BOAT

Use a jet boat or a small boat that can handle shallow water, and launch at a public access. At fall flow, riffles get shallow, so run carefully. Cover riffles and runs with swimbaits and topwaters.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait — bone, early and late over riffles. Popper — calm eddies at first light. Buzzbait — shaded banks at dawn.

MID

Tube — green pumpkin on current seams. Small swimbait — shad or shiner below riffles. Ned rig — slow eddies midday.

BOTTOM

Football jig — craw on ledges. Dropshot — finesse in deeper runs. Texas-rig craw — rock and wood in current.