Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Hopatcong area

Lake Hopatcong

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

8/10

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

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–60°F**, lows **32–34°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

51° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	NW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:46 AM / 4:39 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

56° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:48 AM / 4:38 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

60° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:49 AM / 4:38 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 (6:46 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 ~53°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response), adjusted by 2 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

Bright sun pushes them tight to docks and shade midday, so expect the best feeding at sunrise and late afternoon rather than all day. What's on the menu: Shad-type baitfish plus bluegill and sunfish around docks and weed lead the menu, with crawfish steady on

ALSO BITING

Smallmouth on rock points and deeper channel swings — tubes and dropshots. Hybrid striped bass and walleye roam the open lake.

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 — 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
Lake Hopatcong Dam	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: observed flow at USGS 01455500 (Musconetcong River At Outlet Of Lake Hopatcong Nj) 33 cfs (Mon 3:45 AM CT)	the operator
Permit / regs	Check the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations before you keep fish.	
Clarity	For largemouth bass, three bluebird days with clear water mean the fish will hold tight to shade and cover once the sun climbs.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start on posted public shoreline at Hopatcong State Park in Landing, legal town parks in Mount Arlington and Hopatcong Borough, and other posted walk-in edges where weed and rock meet deeper water — verify hours and fees live, and stay off private docks and lawns.

KAYAK

Launch legal public pads at the state park or posted borough accesses for short paddles into River Styx, Byram Cove, and Woodport. Morning are calm paddling days: work dock lines and shade with a jig or creature bait, and stay close to shore with a light on during low-light hours.

BOAT

Use the state park ramp or a marina launch and idle every pad. Cover main-lake points and weed lines with chatterbaits and swimbaits while the northwest breeze has the surface broken. Slow down — flip and skip docks, pitch a jig to wood, and run a dropshot on the deep weed edge in 12–18 ft when the sun is high.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait — bone or shad, sunrise each day. Spinnerbait / chatterbait — white or shad on the breezy weed edges. Buzzbait — early calm weed mats.

MID

Soft jerk / fluke — shad or green on shaded docks. Small swimbait — when shad flicker on the surface. Creature bait — wood and weed transitions.

BOTTOM

Jig — green pumpkin or brown on docks and wood. Texas-rig worm — slow midday weed edges. Dropshot — finesse on the 12–18 ft weed edge.