Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

**Weather**
National Weather Service forecast for Mercer Lake area

# Mercer Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

**9**/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

| PRESSURE | STORMS | WIND | SKY / RAIN | BASS STAGE | CROWD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| + Stable pattern | + No lightning | + 5–10 mph usable ripple | + Clear / sunny (~1%) | ~ Fall transition | + Weekday · lighter traffic |

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **57–63°F**, lows **29–31°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

**57°** F high

| | |
|---|---|
| LOW | 29°F |
| SKY | Mostly Sunny |
| WIND | NW 5–10 mph |
| RAIN | ~1% |
| SUN | 6:45 AM / 4:41 PM |

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

### TUESDAY NOV 17

**60°** F high

| | |
|---|---|
| LOW | 30°F |
| SKY | Sunny |
| WIND | NW 5 mph |
| RAIN | ~0% |
| SUN | 6:46 AM / 4:40 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 | 31°F |
| SKY | Sunny |
| WIND | W 0–5 mph |
| RAIN | ~0% |
| SUN | 6:47 AM / 4:39 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 (6:45 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 shade and depth midday, so expect the best feeding at sunrise and late afternoon rather than all day. What's on the menu: Sunfish, shiners, and gizzard shad lead the menu around the weed and wood.**

### ALSO BITING

**Crappie around wood; channel catfish in the deeper channel. Check NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife 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 largemouth 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 Mercer County Park's posted shoreline near the marina and the park paths where fishing is allowed — verify park hours, parking, and fishing rules live. At sunrise, throw a spinnerbait or walking bait along wood and weed. Once the sun is up, slow down with a wacky worm or Texas-rig near shade.

### KAYAK

Launch from the park marina after checking the posted launch rules, then paddle short distances along the shaded shoreline and into the coves. Stay clear of the rowing course and crews. The breeze can put chop on the open lake, so stay near shore.

### BOAT

This is an electric-motor lake inside a county park, so a small boat works best. Launch at the marina after checking posted rules and idle every pad. Cover points and weed edges with chatterbaits and swimbaits.

## LURE BOX

### TOP

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

### MID

Soft jerk / fluke — shad or green on shaded cover. Small swimbait — when shad flicker on the surface. Squarebill — craw on rock and wood.

### BOTTOM

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