FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Merrill Creek Reservoir area

Merrill Creek Reservoir

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 (~1%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–59°F**, lows **33–35°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

51° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	NW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
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.

TUESDAY NOV 17

55° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 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.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

59° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:50 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 (6:48 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: Alewives and other baitfish lead the menu, with sunfish around wood and weed and crawfish on the riprap.

ALSO BITING

Smallmouth on the riprap and deeper rock; lake trout in the deep, cold basin. 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 Merrill Creek's posted shore-fishing areas near the boat launch and along the trails from the visitor center — verify hours, parking, and shore-fishing rules live, and stay off closed sections. At sunrise, throw a walking bait or swimbait along the rock.

KAYAK

Launch at the reservoir's boat ramp after checking the posted launch rules, and paddle short distances along the riprap and coves. The northwest breeze can make the open water choppy, so stay near shore. Morning are calm paddling days — work the riprap with a jig or dropshot and the wooded coves with a soft jerk.

BOAT

Gasoline motors aren't allowed — this is an electric-motor lake, so plan your battery for the day. Launch at the posted ramp and idle every pad. Cover the dam and dikes with swimbaits while the breeze is up.

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.