Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Fontana Lake area

Fontana Lake

North Carolina
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Eastern Time · Largemouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

9/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 2–3 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **61–68°F**, lows **31–35°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

61° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	N 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:11 AM / 5:28 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

65° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	E 0–3 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:12 AM / 5:27 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

68° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	E 0–3 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:13 AM / 5:27 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: N → E · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:11 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: Follow shad into the backs of creeks and flats 1-10 ft; spinnerbait, squarebill and topwater at a fast pace.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

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

Basis: estimated water ~57°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

Baitfish gather in the creek mouths and river arms, and spotted bass and smallmouth follow them onto points and rock. What's on the menu / natural forage: Threadfin shad and other open-water baitfish are the most likely main forage, with crawfish on rocky bank

ALSO BITING

Walleye hold on deeper rock and points as the lake cools; slow-trolled crankbaits or jigs tipped with a minnow near the bottom can find them. Crappie are gathering on standing timber in the creek arms.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. Generation schedule and flows below are copied from the operator as posted at the Cast pull — schedules change; re-check the operator page the morning you fish. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Fontana Dam	Mon 11/16: 1 AM - 5 AM EST 0, 5 AM - 6 AM EST 1, 6 AM - 11 AM EST 2 or more, 11 AM - 1 PM EST 1, 1 PM - 6 PM EST 0, 6 PM - 7 PM EST 1, +2 more blocks · Tue 11/17: Midnight - 1 AM EST 0 · Wed 11/18: schedule not posted yet — TVA Observed: pool 1,661.13 ft (4 AM EST); outflow 0 cfs (4 AM EST)	TVA
Permit / regs	Regs: Confirm length limits, creel limits, and any special rules on the live North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission freshwater page before you keep fish.	
Clarity	Bring bright sun with little wind on clear water, which pushes fish deeper and makes them warier once the sun clears the ridges.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank access is limited on Fontana, and the drawdown makes the walk down steep. The Forest Service Cable Cove recreation area near Fontana Dam and the Tsali recreation area give public shoreline near the launches. Pick a rocky point where deep water is close, and cast a small tube or a Ned rig.

KAYAK

Almond Boat Park on the Nantahala arm is a friendly paddle start, and Cable Cove opens up quiet coves near the dam. Fish a small swimbait or a tube along rock and timber, staying in shady pockets.

BOAT

Launch at Cable Cove, whose ramp stays open even when the campground is closed, or at Tsali, Almond Boat Park, or Fontana Village Marina. At this level, ramps are long and steep; check the waterline before backing down.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (clear or bone) on points at first light. Small popper in shady creek coves. Prop bait on calm mornings.

MID

Suspending jerkbait on clear rocky points. 3" swimbait on a light jighead. Small crankbait (crawfish) on rocky banks.

BOTTOM

Dropshot on deep rock and timber. Tube (green pumpkin or smoke) for smallmouth. Ned rig on steep banks.