Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Hickory area

Lake Hickory

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	~ Flat calm	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	~ Fall transition · turnover	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **58–65°F**, lows **29–32°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

58° F high

LOW	29°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NNE 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:02 AM / 5:17 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

62° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NNE 1 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:03 AM / 5:17 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

65° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NNE 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:04 AM / 5:16 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NNE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:02 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. Possible turnover window on stratified reservoirs — the bite can go off for a few days.

Basis: estimated water ~58°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

As nights drop into the upper 40s and low 50s, shad move into creek arms and onto points, and bass follow. On a lake this full of docks, shade is your best friend on the sunny days.

ALSO BITING

Crappie are settling onto brush and dock pilings; small jigs or minnows work in the calm.

PRESSURE

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

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

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
Oxford Dam	Mon 11/16: 7 AM - 10 AM ET, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM ET · Tue 11/17: 6 AM - 9 AM ET, 7 PM - 9 PM ET · Wed 11/18: 6 AM - 9 AM ET, 7 PM - 10 PM ET — Duke Energy Lake View Observed: pool 933.40 ft (Mon 11/16)	Duke Energy
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	The upper lake runs more stained, where chartreuse and white show better; the lower lake is a bit clearer in calm weather.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The NCWRC Wittenburg access on Wildlife Access Road has a public fishing pier, restrooms, and shoreline, and Gunpowder off Hurricane Hill Road near Granite Falls has an accessible fishing pier of its own. Start with a small popper at first light, then work a shaky head or a wacky-rigged stick worm along riprap and pier posts.

KAYAK

Lovelady near Granite Falls is set up for canoes and kayaks as well as boats, and Wittenburg has canoe access. From either, the docks and coves are close. Skip a weightless stick worm or a small jig under docks, and fish the breeze along the windward bank.

BOAT

Launch at Oxford on Claude Road near Claremont (four lanes), Wittenburg (six lanes), or Gunpowder; Dusty Ridge is closed. Run points and creek mouths at first light with a walking bait or a squarebill. By midday, pick apart deeper dock rows with a jig or a skipped soft plastic, and check brush in 12–20 feet with a dropshot.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (shad) for schooling fish. Buzzbait along docks in the fog. Popper in calm dock shade.

MID

Squarebill (shad or chartreuse) on riprap and points. 3–4" swimbait on a light jighead. White spinnerbait on breezy banks.

BOTTOM

Skipping jig (green pumpkin) under docks. Wacky or Texas-rigged stick worm around posts. Shaky head on rock and riprap.