Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake James area

Lake James

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

8/10 — Strong 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	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **58–65°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

58° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:04 AM / 5:19 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	32°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:05 AM / 5:19 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	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NNE 1 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:06 AM / 5:18 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 (7:04 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

No dated forage report covers this exact window, so tre

ALSO BITING

Lake James holds walleye, which use deeper points and rock as the lake cools; slow-trolled crankbaits or bottom jigs can find them. The lake also holds muskellunge, which follow baitfish along points and wood edges in fall.

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
Bridgewater Dam	Mon 11/16: 6 AM - 9 AM ET 2 · Tue 11/17: 6 AM - 9 AM ET 2 · Wed 11/18: 6 AM - 9 AM ET 2 — Duke Energy Lake View Observed: pool 1,196.90 ft (Mon 11/16)	Duke Energy
Permit / regs	Regs: Confirm length limits, creel limits, and any special rules (including muskellunge rules) on the live North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission freshwater page before you keep fish.	
Clarity	For Lake James' smallmouth, spotted bass, and largemouth, clear water and near-calm wind are the big factors.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Lake James State Park has public shoreline at its Paddy's Creek and Catawba River areas; many park trails are still closed after Hurricane Helene, so check the park page first. The Black Bear Access Area off Lake James Road near Marion has a fishing pier.

KAYAK

The Linville Access on NC 126 is a good paddle start into the clear Linville arm, and Hidden Cove (7 AM–8 PM in October) opens quiet coves nearby. Glassy water makes this a great paddling week. Fish a tube or a finesse worm along rock and fallen trees in the shade.

BOAT

Launch at Black Bear, the biggest landing on the lake with six ramps, or at Canal Bridge, which is open year-round with 24-hour gate access, or Hidden Cove. Mimosa Boat Landing is the marina option.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (clear or bone) on points at dawn. Prop bait on glassy mornings. Small popper along shady docks.

MID

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

BOTTOM

Dropshot on deep rock and timber. Tube (green pumpkin or smoke) for smallmouth. Ned rig for wary, clear-water fish.