Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Willoughby area

Lake Willoughby

Vermont

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Eastern Time · Smallmouth · Trout

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 13°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 5–6 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **37–50°F**, lows **25–34°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

37° F high

LOW	25°F
SKY	Cloudy
WIND	NW 5 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:46 AM / 4:19 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

46° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:47 AM / 4:18 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

50° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	W 2–6 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:48 AM / 4:17 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NW → SW → W · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:46 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 **Smallmouth plan: Go subsurface and a notch slower: edges of drop-offs, rocky points and bluff ends between the fall flats and the 20-40 ft winter depth; jerkbait with pauses, small jig or hula grub on the bottom, blade bait ripped off the bottom on points.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the late fall transition — water in the low-to-mid 50s, so they are staging on drop-off edges, points and bends between their summer spots and the deep wintering holes.

Basis: estimated water ~47°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response), adjusted by 1 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

What they are eating: Smelt and other small baitfish are the main food for lake trout and salmon. Smallmouth on rock are eating crayfish and small baitfish.

ALSO BITING

Smallmouth are a good option on nearshore rock when you want a break from trolling, and they will hit a tube or drop-shot. Rainbow trout are also present and will hit the same spoons near the surface.

PRESSURE

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

USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

WATER BOARD — LAKE CHEAT SHEET

FIXED Natural / small-impoundment water — no generation table. Check access rules and level notes with the managing agency before you go.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Check the live salmonid regulations before you fish.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public bank access is limited to the area near the Lake Willoughby access on VT Route 5A and posted public shoreline nearby. Respect private property and keep trailer lanes clear. Bank anglers do best at first light and dusk, when salmon and the occasional lake trout cruise closer to shore as the surface cools.

KAYAK

Launch at the VT Route 5A access when space allows, and stay close to the south end or along the shoreline you can reach quickly. Wind gusts between the cliffs can build waves fast, and water in the 50s is dangerous if you capsize, so wear a PFD and dress for immersion. Is the best kayak day.

BOAT

Use a fish finder to locate baitfish, then fish at that depth. Downriggers, leadcore line, or vertical jigging spoons are the right tools here. Fish short windows between showers in the south basin.

LURE BOX

TOP

Streamer fly or small stickbait trolled near the surface at first light. Small walking bait on calm water for smallmouth only. Shallow-running minnow plug along the shore on overcast mornings.

MID

Trolling spoons (silver / gold) behind leadcore. Small minnow plugs on a planer board. Suspending jerkbait on steep walls.

BOTTOM

Vertical jigging spoon on bait marks. Tube jig hopped near bottom on deep humps. Drop-shot for smallmouth on nearshore rock.