FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Claytor Lake area

Claytor Lake

Virginia

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 13°F swing	+ No lightning	~ Flat calm	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–64°F**, lows **30–32°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

51° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:02 AM / 5:12 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

57° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:03 AM / 5:11 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

64° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:04 AM / 5:11 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NW → · 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 **Smallmouth plan: Cover rock flats and points 5-20 ft as fish feed up; jerkbait, swimbait and blade bait at a moderate-to-fast pace.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

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

Basis: estimated water ~55°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

Fall feed on rock, stripers on shad. Smallmouth are gathering on rocky points and bluffs to feed before winter, and stripers are chasing shad on the main lake.

ALSO BITING

Largemouth hold on docks and wood in the coves. Walleye move onto rocky points in low light.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by Appalachian Power (AEP) for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 — check the operator page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Claytor Dam	No generation schedule posted by Appalachian Power (AEP) for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 1,845.67 ft (Nov 16 2026, 5:18 AM EST); tailwater flow, last-hour average 1,351 cfs (Nov 16 2026, 5:18 AM EST)	Appalachian Power (AEP)
Permit / regs	Check the live Virginia DWR regulations before you keep fish.	
Clarity	If the river does rise, the upper lake can become stained, which often brings smallmouth shallower and makes spinnerbaits and crankbaits more effective.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Claytor Lake State Park shoreline and posted public access near Dublin put rock and points within a short walk. Verify park hours and fees. Cast a tube or Ned rig on rocky banks from late morning.

KAYAK

Launch at Claytor Lake State Park or the Hidden Valley ramp, and fish the nearby coves and rocky points. Claytor's light winds this week make for easy paddling once the fog lifts. Work rocky points with a tube, Ned rig, or drop-shot, and watch for stripers busting shad on the main lake.

BOAT

Wait for the fog to lift enough to run safely, then work rocky points with a jerkbait and switch to a tube or Ned rig as the sun gets higher. Look for birds on the main lake and throw swimbaits or topwater at breaking stripers, then fish rock for smallmouth in the afternoon. Cover rocky banks and points through the warm afternoon.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait on calm mornings over rock and points. Small popper in coves at first light. Buzzbait on overcast, breezy afternoons.

MID

Small swimbait on a light head along rock. Suspending jerkbait on clear mornings. Medium-diving crankbait on rocky points.

BOTTOM

Tube or Ned rig on rock and gravel. Drop-shot with a small shad profile. Football jig on deeper rock.