FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Philpott Lake area

Philpott Lake

Virginia

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
~ 11°F swing	+ No lightning	~ Flat calm	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **55–66°F**, lows **34–35°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

55° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	N 1 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:59 AM / 5:10 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

58° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:00 AM / 5:09 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

66° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NE 1 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:01 AM / 5:09 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:59 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 ~56°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

What they are eating: Alewives and small baitfish in the open water, plus crayfish on rock.

ALSO BITING

Walleye move onto rocky points and flats at night and in low light, and they are a good evening target. Crappie are moving toward brush in the coves.

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 USACE SAW 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
Philpott Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE SAW for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 970.52 ft (Mon 4:10 AM CT)	USACE SAW
Permit / regs	Check the live Virginia DWR regulations before you keep fish.	
Clarity	Army Corps of Engineers reservoir on the Smith River, with steep, rocky shorelines and clear water.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Fairy Stone State Park and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas at Salthouse Branch and Twin Ridge put rock and points within a short walk. Verify hours and fees, since some areas reduce services after the summer season.

KAYAK

Launch at Salthouse Branch, Twin Ridge, or another public access. Philpott is a good kayak lake on calm days, and this week's light winds make for easy paddling once the fog lifts. Work rocky points with a tube, Ned rig, or drop-shot, and wood in the coves with a jig or Texas rig.

BOAT

Wait for the fog to lift enough to run safely, then throw topwater on rocky points before switching to a jerkbait or tube. Fish deeper rock in 15 to 30 feet with a drop-shot or football jig. Cover rocky banks and points with a jerkbait or crankbait through the 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.