FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Smith Mountain Lake area

Smith Mountain Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

8/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
~ 12°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 2–5 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **55–67°F**, lows **33–35°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 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:58 AM / 5:08 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

59° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 2 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:59 AM / 5:07 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

67° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 3 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:00 AM / 5:06 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:58 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

Striped bass — fall shad chase.

ALSO BITING

Largemouth are a strong second option around docks, laydowns, and secondary points in the creek arms, especially at midday. Smallmouth hold on steeper rock and points in the lower lake and will hit a jerkbait or drop shot.

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
Smith Mountain Dam	No generation schedule posted by Appalachian Power (AEP) for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 790.55 ft (Nov 16 2026, 5:18 AM EST)	Appalachian Power (AEP)
Permit / regs	Check the live Virginia DWR freshwater regulations before you keep any fish, including the striped bass rules for this lake.	
Clarity	Slightly stained water and a bit of current at the head of the Roanoke arm can concentrate shad and bass early in the week.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Smith Mountain Lake State Park near Huddleston is the best public bank option, with a fishing pier and shoreline trails on the main lake; there is a park entry fee, so check hours before you go. Most other shoreline is private, so stay on public ground.

KAYAK

The state park's launch gives kayakers quick access to protected coves on the main lake. Work the backs of coves for largemouth around docks and wood with a creature bait or a small swim jig.

BOAT

Launch from the state park ramp or another public ramp and be on a creek mouth or long point at first light. Use your electronics to find shad, then fish a soft swimbait, a jerkbait, or live bait where it is legal and practical.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (bone / chrome) on surface activity. Small popper around docks at first light. Prop bait on calm cove mouths.

MID

4–5" soft swimbait on a jighead, shad color. Suspending jerkbait on clear main-lake points. Spinnerbait (white) in the stained upper Roanoke arm.

BOTTOM

Flutter spoon when stripers drop deep at midday. Shaky head or Texas rig in green pumpkin. Jig with craw trailer on rocky points.