FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Mendota area

Lake Mendota

Wisconsin

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Largemouth · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

4/10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
~ 11°F swing	+ No lightning	− Up to 20 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~5%)	~ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–57°F**, lows **35–46°F**, rain chance up to **~5%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

51° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:51 AM / 4:33 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

55° F high

LOW	39°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:52 AM / 4:32 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

57° F high

LOW	46°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 15–20 mph
RAIN	~5%
SUN	6:53 AM / 4:31 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:51 AM CST) → ~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: Slow down: steep points, channel drops and remaining grass just outside the creeks, between the fall flats and the 15-30 ft winter depth; suspending jerkbait with long pauses, jig-and-pig or blade bait crawled down the slope.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Largemouth are in the late fall transition — water under the mid-50s, so bass are sliding off the shallow flats toward steeper points and channel drops near their fall feeding areas.

Basis: estimated water ~53°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: young-of-year yellow perch, bluegill and crayfish. Match that with bluegill and perch swim jigs and jerkbaits for largemouth and crayfish-colored tubes for smallmouth.

ALSO BITING

Muskie · walleye. Fall muskie fishing builds along weed edges and rock with bucktails and gliders.

PRESSURE

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

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by the operator 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
LAKE MENDOTA AT MADISON, WI	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 849.61 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT)	the operator
Clarity	Calm, bright, clear water.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Picnic Point in the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve gives walk-in access to rock and weed edges that hold smallmouth and largemouth in fall. James Madison Park and Tenney Park downtown offer shoreline and breakwall access, and Governor Nelson State Park on the north shore has its own shoreline and pier area.

KAYAK

Launch at Marshall Park in Middleton or at Spring Harbor and work the west end, University Bay and the weed edges near Picnic Point, all within easy reach without crossing the open basin. Are the calmest paddle days, and University Bay's weed edges are a short, sheltered paddle from Spring Harbor.

BOAT

Launch at Marshall Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Warner Park or Spring Harbor. Use your electronics to find the outside weed edge, then work it with a swim jig, spinnerbait or Texas-rigged plastic for largemouth.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait over weed flats on calm mornings. Buzzbait along weed edges on the warm afternoon. Popper near rock when smallmouth chase bait at dawn.

MID

Swim jig (bluegill / white) along the outside weed edge. Spinnerbait or lipless crankbait on wind-blown weeds Suspending jerkbait (perch / ghost) over rock with long pauses.

BOTTOM

Texas-rigged creature bait or stick bait in weed pockets. 3" tube or drop-shot (goby / green pumpkin) on rock. Ned rig or wacky-rigged stick bait for calm-day finesse.