



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · CLONE PFL PILOT

Clay County Public Lake (Fred R. Harders): Storm Windows & PFL Permit Bite

Clay County Public Lake (Fred R. Harders) · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · ADCNR Public Fishing Lake

Highs ~86° Fri → ~74° Sun (NWS BMX · AL-middle band)

Orange pin 33.43008, -85.70301

Storm chances Fri–Sun — pack a shell; abort for lightning

Daily PFL permit + AL license · soft recreational

Middle-Alabama PFLs sit under a wet BMX card this weekend — earn the dawn lull, fish tight cover between cells, and treat the lake permit desk like part of the launch checklist.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

SharedFeeds **AL-middle** band pulled Friday morning CT for the Fri–Sun window (NWS **BMX** grid via the locked middle representative pin). **Friday** still warm (~86°F / ~69°F) with a ~50% chance of showers and thunderstorms and light southeast wind. **Saturday** stays unsettled (~84°F / ~69°F, storms **likely** ~60%). **Sunday** is the wettest and coolest card (~74°F / ~66°F, storms ~90%). No active NWS AL watches/warnings noted at the SharedFeeds dump. Barometer and site METARs confirm live before you leave the driveway.

For bass on a managed Public Fishing Lake: lean **first light** and any **lull between cells**. These are small, fertile, cover-rich waters — managed pond-style lakes, not river-current fisheries. Clarity and color confirm at the ramp; after a hard rain pulse expect a stained edge and fish the cleaner seams along points, brush, and the first drop off the bank. Soft recreational pressure on a storm weekend — no named ABT / ABA / B.A.S.S. trail event pulled for this PFL on Oct 2–4.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~86°F

Low ~69° · ~50% storms · SE 5 mph
Slight-chance showers early, then chance storms

Sunrise **6:42 AM** · Sunset **6:33 PM CT**

Best bite: First light--~9 AM CT before cells; abort for lightning

SATURDAY OCT 3

~84°F

Low ~69° · ~60% storms · SE 0–5 mph
Showers and thunderstorms likely

Sunrise **6:43 AM** · Sunset **6:32 PM CT**

Best bite: Dawn lull if any; fish tight cover between cells

SUNDAY OCT 4

~74°F

Low ~66° · ~90% storms · E 0–5 mph
Showers and thunderstorms (wettest card)

Sunrise **6:44 AM** · Sunset **6:31 PM CT**

Best bite: Short wet-weather windows only; safety first

Day cards from SharedFeeds AL-middle band-forecasts (2026-10-02). Confirm live NWS BMX and the Outdoor Alabama lake page before you buy the permit.

● ADCNR PFL CHEAT SHEET

This water is an **Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Public Fishing Lake**. Your live board is the **Outdoor Alabama lake page**, the on-site permit desk, ramp status, and what the sky is doing.

ITEM	FRI–SUN NOTE	FAILOVER
Permit & license	Daily lake permit + valid Alabama fishing license required. Personal-boat launch is tied to the lake permit for fishing boats.	Outdoor Alabama PFL pages · on-site desk
Access	ADCNR Clay County PFL complex (Fred R. Harders). Public boat ramp on site; bank fishing where posted. Daily lake permit plus a valid Alabama fishing license; personal-boat launch with permit per Outdoor Alabama. Confirm which pool is open, hours, and fees on the lake page before you trailer.	OA lake page · pin 33.43008, -85.70301
Storm / safety	Small water + lightning is a bad mix. If thunder is close, trailer and wait. Life jacket on when the boat is underway.	NWS BMX · on-water observation

Clay County Public Lake (Fred R. Harders) (Managed multi-pool PFL complex, Clay County (Fred R. Harders)). Soft bite notes only: points, brush, piers, and the first break off the bank at dawn; shade and thicker cover once the day heats or a cell stains the edge. Confirm open status — some AL PFLs rotate closures for renovation or restocking; this Cast does not override the agency page.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Primary public bank and pier access is on-site at **Clay County Public Lake (Fred R. Harders)** — work the permitted shoreline, piers, and any posted day-use banks. Named access: the ADCNR PFL facility at orange pin **33.43008, -85.70301** (Clay County (Fred R. Harders)). Start on points, brush edges, and shaded pockets at first light before storm light hardens the flat.

Shared: buy the daily lake permit before the first cast; keep the license on you. Hydrate; humid storm-weekend air still cooks after a lull. Stay off any closed renovation banks and respect other anglers on a small shoreline.

KAYAK

Launch at the **named on-site PFL ramp** when open and permitted; confirm ramp and parking before you strap the boat. Fish shoreline cover, points, and protected pockets — these lakes are small enough that a full lap is a morning, not a expedition.

Wind is usually light this card, but a storm outflow can end a kayak hour early — have a bailout bank planned and get off the water for lightning. PFD on, whistle, and a dry bag for the permit paperwork.

BOAT

Plan: **first light--~9 AM CT** on points and visible cover; mid-morning shade, piers, and the first drop; abort when thunder walks in. Launch early at the on-site PFL ramp when open — confirm ramp status and depth after heavy overnight rain before you trailer.

Fish bait, birds, and cover. Soft storm-weekend traffic; a sunny lull between cells can pack a small ramp fast. Mark any bait height or bluegill pops along the bank at dawn.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait bone/chrome at dawn on slick banks. Poppers over brush pockets between cells. Soft buzzbait along shaded edges when cloud cover holds.

MID

Spinnerbait white/chartreuse when a breeze or outflow chops the surface. Soft swimbait for suspended fish off points. Squarebill citrus on any riprap or hard bank.

BOTTOM

Green pumpkin creature or Texas-rig worm in brush. Weightless stick bait for pressure-shy fish after a crowd pulse. Compact jig on the first break off the bank.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early October on middle-Alabama PFLs is a post-summer / early-fall feed on managed, cover-rich water. Largemouth relate to shoreline brush, points, piers, and the first drop — not river ledges or dam current.

● FORAGE THIS WEEK

Most likely menu: bluegill and juvenile sunfish around brush and piers, plus any shad or threadfin the lake carries in open pockets. Hatch reports are thin on PFLs — match what you see along the bank and any surface pops at dawn. After a hard rain, stained water often wants a brighter or noisier profile until color settles.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Bream / bluegill on the same brush the bass use. Catfish on deeper holes and night edges where allowed. Crappie soft language if the lake carries brush piles — confirm seasons and limits live.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: No named national trail event pulled for this PFL Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4. Soft storm-weekend recreational pressure; a clear lull between cells can pack a small lot. Regs and permit rules confirm live before you keep fish.

● PATTERN NOTES (THIS WEEK)

Early October on this Public Fishing Lake is still a feed-and-comfort game under a wet BMX card. Cooler outflow mornings pull fish shallow at first light; the afternoon rebound — when you get one between cells — pushes them to shade, brush, piers, and the first break off the bank.

Start every morning by walking one trusted bank or pier before the first long cast. If bait or bluegill are popping, open with a walking bait or spinnerbait; if the bank is quiet after a night of rain, open with a Texas-rig, creature, or soft stick bait on stained edges. That single fork saves wasted hours chasing last week's memory on a lake you can see across.

Treat the Outdoor Alabama lake page, the permit desk, ramp feel after rain, birds, and bank bait as your live board. Keep the plan on shoreline cover and permit rules — not river-current thinking.

● CLAY COUNTY PUBLIC LAKE (FRED R. HARDERS) MIDWEEK NOTES

Clay County Public Lake (Fred R. Harders) is a managed ADCNR Public Fishing Lake at orange pin **33.43008, -85.70301** (Clay County (Fred R. Harders)). Managed multi-pool PFL complex. The shared middle-Alabama storm pattern applies; the stamp on this product is this lake's own name, pin, and access stub so a hub click lands on the right title.

Access in one line: ADCNR Clay County PFL complex (Fred R. Harders). Public boat ramp on site; bank fishing where posted. Daily lake permit plus a valid Alabama fishing license; personal-boat launch with permit per Outdoor Alabama. Confirm which pool is open, hours, and fees on the lake page before you trailer.

Electronics tip on small water: a simple sonar pass along the first break beats guessing. Mark any bait ball or brush line at dawn, then fish it before the first cell. No dam boards — do not invent generation language here.

● ON THE WATER THIS WINDOW

Treat dawn as the whole trip when storms are stacked. A clean first hour on a point, brush edge, pier, or first break beats three hours of chasing cells around a small lake.

Fish structure and bait first. Decision fork: calm slick mornings open with a topwater or walking bait on the first clean bank you trust; breezy or rain-chop mornings open with a spinnerbait or soft plastic along the windward or stained edge, then rotate to shade. That fork covers most of this Cast without overthinking the box.

Primary this week is largemouth on shoreline cover and piers. Secondary species stay short also-notes only. Stained post-rain water often wants a slightly brighter or noisier profile until color settles.

● WINDOW DISCIPLINE

Leave time margin for the permit desk, the ramp, and the drive. Soft storm-weekend pressure evaporates whenever a lull looks fishable on a small PFL — especially after Friday's warmer open. Get the dawn hour right, then leave while the fishing is still good and the radar is still honest.

Practical pre-launch check: Outdoor Alabama open/closed status, permit and license in hand, ramp feel after rain, and a glance at NWS BMX hourly plus lightning. Birds working a bank at dawn are the best free tip when the sky is messy.

Pure-Gas.org E0 · this water

No Pure-Gas.org station list is saved yet for this PFL orange pin. Before you leave Clay County (Fred R. Harders), search **Pure-Gas.org** for ethanol-free fuel near the lake and confirm E0 grade at the pump if grade matters to you. Listings change; this Cast does not invent station names or miles.

E0 stub only — reader verifies on Pure-Gas.org. No pump prices on this card.

SOURCES

SharedFeeds band-forecasts AL-middle / NWS BMX (2026-10-02 dump) · Outdoor Alabama State Public Fishing Lakes / lake page for Clay County Public Lake (Fred R. Harders) · ADCNR PFL facility pin (33.43008, -85.70301) · Pure-Gas.org (reader search; no saved station list for this pin) · state regs (live) · Trail calendars skimmed (no named event confirmed unless noted).