FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Fort Smith area

Lake Fort Smith

Arkansas

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 14°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 5–10 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	~ Fall transition · turnover	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **60–65°F**, lows **35–49°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

61° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SE 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:53 AM / 5:09 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

60° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SE 0–5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:54 AM / 5:08 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

65° F high

LOW	49°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SE 5–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:55 AM / 5:07 PM

Frame: Stable day — first-light moving bait, then slow down around shade and cover once the sun is up.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:53 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: 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. Possible turnover window on stratified reservoirs — the bite can go off for a few days.

Basis: estimated water ~60°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Most likely menu: shad or threadfin in open pockets where the lake carries them, plus bluegill around brush and docks. Match what you see along the bank at dawn.

ALSO BITING

Channel catfish on deeper edges after dark where allowed. Crappie soft language on brush if the lake carries timber.

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 — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Work permitted shoreline, points, and posted piers at first light.	
Clarity	Ramp-side clarity · agency notices.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Primary bank access is at Lake Fort Smith State Park boat ramp. Work permitted shoreline, points, and posted piers at first light. Start on shade lines, brush, and the first break.

KAYAK

Launch at Lake Fort Smith State Park boat ramp when the ramp and parking are open. Fish protected coves and windward points on light-breeze days. Have a bailout bank and get off the water for lightning.

BOAT

Plan dawn at Lake Fort Smith State Park boat ramp: topwater and spinnerbait on points and bait, then docks, brush, and the first drop. Confirm ramp status before you trailer. Soft weekday pressure still rises after mid-morning — launch early.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait or popper at dawn on slick points. Soft buzzbait along shade edges when cloud cover holds.

MID

Spinnerbait white/chartreuse when a breeze chops the surface. Soft swimbait off points. Squarebill on riprap.

BOTTOM

Green pumpkin creature or Texas-rig worm in brush. Dropshot or shaky head on the first break when fish suspend.