



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST

Lake Berryessa: Warm Midweek Highs, Spotted Bass & Dawn Windows

Lake Berryessa · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in PT

Warm weekend · Fri ~87° → Sat–Sun ~92–91° PT

Primary: spotted bass

Verify dam boards before you go

Soft Friday recreational · no named trail event pulled

October heat is hanging on over Berryessa — pack water for the midday glare, fish the first hour on the points like it matters, and let the shad on the graph tell you which pocket is alive.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

National Weather Service San Francisco Bay Area's point forecast for Lake Berryessa frames a dry, warm weekend for the **Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026** window. Read every clock in this Cast as **PT**. Friday opens near **87°F** after overnight air near **63°F** (partly sunny, 2 mph NNW). Saturday climbs to about **92°F / 66°F** (sunny, 2 mph NNW). Sunday holds near **91°F / 69°F** (mostly sunny, 2 mph NNE). No active watches or warnings were highlighted for this pull. Barometer was not logged station-by-station on every arm; treat pressure as steady-fair under this quiet pattern.

For **spotted bass**, that pattern favors a classic early-fall California day: **first light through mid-morning** on shallow shade, points, and bait edges while air is still cool, then a slide to the first break, docks, and any wind-stacked bank once the sun clears the hills. Midday heat will push fish deeper or tighter under cover — slow down, fish shade, and save long runs for the afternoon only if the breeze keeps you cool. Friday is the softer traffic day; Saturday and Sunday recreational pressure builds around popular ramps, and **no named national trail event was pulled** for this water on Oct 2–4.

Carry more water than you think you need on this midweek window — highs climb through Wednesday, and the best fishing still happens when you can stay focused through the heat. A simple three-rod rotation (one faster search bait, one mid-column bait, one bottom bait) covers almost every bank you will fish without cluttering the deck. When a pocket goes quiet, make one short move to the next point or seam that shows bait on the graph rather than a long empty run. That habit keeps you in fish and matches how this water actually turns on in early fall.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~87°F

Low ~63° · dry · 2 mph

NNW

Partly Sunny

Sunrise ~7:05 AM · Sunset ~6:48 PM PT

Best bite: first light—~10 AM; softest weekend traffic

SATURDAY OCT 3

~92°F

Low ~66° · dry · 2 mph

NNW

Sunny

Sunrise ~7:06 AM · Sunset ~6:47 PM PT

Best bite: first light—~10 AM; shade and structure after 11 AM

SUNDAY OCT 4

~91°F

Low ~69° · dry · 2 mph

NNE

Mostly Sunny

Sunrise ~7:07 AM · Sunset ~6:45 PM PT

Best bite: dawn shallow; mid-day slow under cover

● LEVEL & FLOW CHEAT SHEET

Reclamation / Lake Berryessa park notices pages are the live source for pool, gate, and park notices on Berryessa. Fixed Fri–Sun recreational “generator calendars” are often thin for foothill and SoCal reservoirs — treat any elevation, release, or advisory as live. Failover: check the agency and park page the morning you launch, and call the marina or park desk if you need a same-day condition read. Advisories can change without notice.

WATER	OBSERVED	FLOW / BOARDS	HOW TO FISH IT
Monticello Dam / Berryessa pool	Verify live pool and park notices before you launch	No fixed Fri–Sun public recreational release calendar pulled	Fish points, rock, and creek arms; treat any flow change as a live check

Dam and restricted zones stay off-limits whether flows are quiet or moving. If a local advisory, fire restriction, or temporary closure appears on the park or agency page, that overrides any general weekend outlook here.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shore access near **Markley Cove**, **Pleasure Cove**, and lower-lake day-use pockets puts rock points, riprap, and shade in easy casting range without a trailer. Work parallel to the first break at first light with a spinnerbait or small swimbait, then pick apart individual rocks, brush, and dock shade with a drop-shot or shakey once the sun climbs. Stay on public or permitted shoreline only, give swimming beaches room after mid-morning, and skip any posted private banks. If a morning breeze stacks bait on one point, stay and rotate a search bait and a finesse bait through that water before you hike to the next pocket.

KAYAK

Launch at **Markley Cove** or a quiet morning day-use ramp and paddle onto the nearest main-lake point or creek-arm mouth before ski traffic wakes up. Spotted bass here reward a slow graph-and-cast approach — mark shad, then fish the break — more than racing the whole lake. Wear a PFD, mind afternoon winds on the long fetches, and leave room for rental and ski boats near popular coves. Keep a topwater, a small swimbait, and a drop-shot on the deck so you can change without beaching. If lightning or a hard afternoon chop builds, duck into the nearest protected pocket rather than fighting open water.

BOAT

Main ramps at Markley and the west-shore day-use areas put you on points and creek arms quickly. Start shallow on shaded rock at first light with a topwater or spinnerbait, then rotate to drop-shot, shakey, and small swimbaits on the first break once fish short-strike. Midday, slide deeper on the same points and dock lines rather than burning fuel around the whole lake. Keep a spotter when running, give ski boats space on busy lanes, and stay clear of the dam restricted zone. When wind turns a point on, fish the blown bank thoroughly before you leave for a calm pocket.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Closest public **ethanol-free (E0)** listings from Pure-Gas.org near Berryessa. Listings can change — confirm the E0 grade at the pump if that matters for your motor. No pump prices in this Cast.

- Chevron — Sonoma, CA · ~24.2 mi · CHEVRON · E0 octane 91 · —
 - Sonoco — Sonoma, CA · ~32.3 mi · SUNOCO · E0 octane 91, 96, 100 · 800-870-7223
 - Renner Petroleum — Cloverdale, CA · ~44.1 mi · UNBRANDED · E0 octane 92 · 707-894-0776
 - Hillside Powersports — Lakeport, CA · ~47.4 mi · UNBRANDED · E0 octane 92 · 707-263-9000
- Call ahead when you can — E0 availability changes. Distances are rough estimates to this water.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait and small popper on points at dawn. Bone and chrome when the surface is calm.

MID

Spinnerbait or small swimbait on wind-blown points; keep a drop-shot ready for the break.

BOTTOM

Drop-shot, shakey head, and compact jig on the first break and shaded rock. Green pumpkin and smoke cover most foothill stains.

Match size to **threadfin shad** and **small bluegill** along points and rock. Size down when fish short-strike; size up when you mark bigger bait. Primary species this week is **spotted bass**.

● SPOTTED BASS LIFE STAGE

Spawn is long over. This midweek window is about **post-summer spotted bass** tracking shad on points, rock transitions, and creek-arm edges. Expect morning fish to show higher on the column and midday fish to bury on the break or under docks. Match the bait you mark on the graph.

What's on the menu: threadfin shad and small bluegill along points and rock are the most likely menu this week. Public hatch reports are often thin — lead with the forage above, and match the bait you mark on the graph or see dimpling on the surface.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Largemouth still show in the backs of coves and around brush. **Smallmouth** earn a cast on cleaner rock when the breeze lays down. Keep the list short — spots lead this Cast.

● PRESSURE, CLARITY & BITE WINDOWS

Clarity swings pocket by pocket — wind can stain a bank overnight while the lee side stays clearer. Start with natural colors in clearer water and switch to a darker, slower profile when a pocket turns green or muddy. Decision tree for this midweek: **low light** = shallow shade and faster topwater or swim presentations; **high sun** = docks, breaks, and a slower bottom bait; **building wind** = fish the blown bank before you leave. Weekday recreation is softer than weekend traffic, but rental boats and bank crowds still peak near popular ramps after mid-morning — launch early, fish the plan, and treat crowd pressure as soft weekday recreation unless a named event shows on the calendar.

Heavy Traffic: no named trail event pulled for Mon–Wed on this water. Soft Friday recreational; Saturday–Sunday builds at popular ramps only.

● ACCESS NOTES & SAFETY

Regs change by water and season. Use the live CDFW licensing and regulation pages for bag limits and gear rules before you fish. Confirm park fees, mussel inspections, and fire restrictions before you trail in. Wear a PFD when the boat is on plane, keep a spotter in busy lanes, and give swimming beaches and ski courses room. If lightning builds (unlikely under this dry forecast, but still watch the sky), get off exposed water early.

● POINTS, BAIT & WHERE TO START

Berryessa midweek fishing rewards a point-and-pocket plan more than a lake-wide tour. Graph the first two or three points near your launch at dawn; if you mark shad or see surface activity, rotate a topwater, a small swimbait, and a drop-shot through that water before you leave. Spots often show

higher in the column early, then slide to the break as the sun clears the ridge — follow them down instead of abandoning the point.

Wind is a friend when it puts a ripple on a main-lake point and a problem when it white-caps a long fetch. Fish the blown bank with a spinnerbait or swimbait while the breeze is honest, then duck into a creek arm for finesse once the afternoon chop builds. Weekday ski traffic still peaks after mid-morning near Markley and Pleasure Cove — launch early, fish the plan, and save the long sightseeing run for another day.

If one arm is empty on the graph, make one short move to the next creek mouth rather than burning a tank circling the lake. Match lure size to the bait you mark; undersize drop-shots catch short-strikers when fish are finicky under high sun.

● **LOOKING AHEAD**

Next 1–3 weeks: watch the first true cool front of autumn and any weekend tournament calendars that would stack Heavy Traffic on Berryessa. As nights keep dropping, expect spotted bass to spend more of the morning on bait and edges and less time buried in the deepest shade. Confirm mussel rules, fire restrictions, and park hours as seasons flip.

● **SOURCES**

NWS Bay Area point forecast · Reclamation / Lake Berryessa park notices · Pure-Gas.org E0 listings. Elevations, advisories, and station lists change — verify dam boards and pump grade before you go.