



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST

Castaic Lake: Warm Midweek, Trophy Largemouth & SoCal Dawn

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

Warm weekend · Fri ~102° → Sat–Sun ~100–98° PT

Primary: largemouth bass

Verify dam boards before you go

Soft Friday recreational · no named trail event pulled

SoCal October heat is still doing overtime at Castaic — pack water, fish the first hour like a tournament practice, and let the bait on the graph tell you which arm is actually alive.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard's point forecast for Castaic Lake 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 **102°F** after overnight air near **71°F** (sunny, 10 mph E). Saturday climbs to about **100°F / 73°F** (sunny, 5 to 10 mph ENE). Sunday holds near **98°F / 73°F** (sunny, 5 to 10 mph ENE). 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 **largemouth 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

~102°F

Low ~71° · dry · 10 mph E

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:51 AM · Sunset ~6:34 PM PT

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

SATURDAY OCT 3

~100°F

Low ~73° · dry · 5 to 10 mph ENE

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:52 AM · Sunset ~6:33 PM PT

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

SUNDAY OCT 4

~98°F

Low ~73° · dry · 5 to 10 mph ENE

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:53 AM · Sunset ~6:31 PM PT

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

● LEVEL & FLOW CHEAT SHEET

DWR Castaic / Angeles Forest park notices pages are the live source for pool, gate, and park notices on Castaic. 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
Castaic Dam / pool	Verify live pool and park notices before you launch	No fixed Fri–Sun public recreational release calendar pulled	Fish structure, bait, and shade; verify boards the morning you go

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

Public shoreline near the **main lower-lake day-use** and quieter secondary arms lets you reach riprap, points, and brush without a boat. Fan-cast first light along rock and shade with a swimbait or walking bait, then slow down with a Texas-rig or jig once the sun clears the ridge. Stay on posted public access only, give swim beaches a wide berth after mid-morning, and watch for private docks. If you see bait dimpling or birds working a point, stay and rotate a bigger profile and a bottom bait through that water before you walk to the next pocket.

KAYAK

Launch at the main recreation ramps early and paddle into the nearest point or creek-arm pocket before ski traffic builds. Castaic rewards a graph-first approach — mark bait, then fish it with a swimbait, topwater, or Texas-rig — more than a basin-wide race. Wear a PFD, mind afternoon winds on open water, and leave space for larger bass boats on the popular lanes. Keep three rods ready so you can change profiles without landing. If the main lake turns into a ski corridor, duck into an upper-arm pocket and slow down rather than fighting wakes for short casts.

BOAT

Lower-lake and upper-arm ramps put you on points, islands, and creek arms quickly. Start shallow at dawn with a topwater or swimbait, then rotate to jigs, Texas-rigs, and drop-shots on the first break and shaded structure. Midday heat pushes fish deeper or tighter to cover — slow down rather than making empty long runs. Keep a spotter when running, give ski boats room, and honor dam restricted zones. When wind stacks bait on one bank, fish that bank thoroughly with a spinnerbait or chatterbait before you leave for calm shade.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

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

- Socal Nitrous & Race Fuel — Downey, CA · ~50.5 mi · UNBRANDED · E0 octane 93 · 562-862-9122
 - Yuzty Chevron — Farmersville, CA · ~126.7 mi · CHEVRON · E0 octane 87, 89, 91 · —
 - Gold Country Gas — Sonora, CA · ~258.0 mi · UNBRANDED · E0 octane 100 · 209-532-6428
 - Hunt & Sons — Placerville, CA · ~315.6 mi · UNBRANDED · E0 octane 93, 100 · 530-622-1551
- Call ahead when you can — E0 availability changes. Distances are rough estimates to this water.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait, buzzbait, and a hollow frog over sparse cover at dawn. Bone, chrome, and black first.

MID

Chatterbait or spinnerbait on the blown bank; squarebill along riprap and docks. Shad and bluegill patterns in clearer water.

BOTTOM

Texas-rig, compact jig, and drop-shot for midday shade. Green pumpkin, watermelon, and junebug cover most stains.

Match size to **threadfin shad**, **trout-plant residuals** where present, and **bluegill** around **structure**. Size down when fish short-strike; size up when you mark bigger bait. Primary species this week is **largemouth bass**.

● LARGEMOUTH BASS LIFE STAGE

Spawn is long over. This midweek window is about **post-summer trophy largemouth** tracking bait and shade. Morning fish can still show high on the column over points; midday fish bury under docks, timber, and deeper breaks. Match the bait you mark.

What's on the menu: threadfin shad, trout-plant residuals where present, and bluegill around structure 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.

Watch for bait dimpling on calm mornings and for birds working a point or riprap seam. Those clues beat a generic “fish deep” rule this week. If fish short-strike, downsize before you abandon the spot; if they flash and leave, try one size larger or a different profile on the next cast.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Striped bass show when bait balls stack on the main lake. **Trout** hold in cooler pockets for light-line anglers. Lead with largemouth for 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. Mussel inspections and park hours can change — check 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.

● TROPHY WATER GAME PLAN

Castaic midweek is about quality over mileage. Graph points, island edges, and creek-arm mouths at dawn; when you mark bait or see birds, commit a full rotation of swimbait, topwater, and a bottom bait before you leave. Trophy largemouth here often want a bigger profile than foothill spots — keep a swimbait ready even when the morning feels “finesse.”

Heat and boat traffic compress the shallow bite after mid-morning. Plan your best water for first light, then slide to docks, timber, and the first sharp break once the sun clears the ridge. If the main lake turns into a ski corridor, duck into an upper-arm pocket and slow down rather than fighting wakes for a mediocre cast.

Wind-blown banks can turn on a spinnerbait or chatterbait bite that outfishes calm shade for an hour — use it, then return to structure when the breeze dies. Always confirm park hours and mussel inspection lanes before you trail in; a closed ramp wastes more time than a careful morning plan.

● 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 Castaic. As nights keep dropping, expect largemouth 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.

Keep notes on which bank produced and what the graph showed — early-fall patterns on this water often repeat the next morning if nights stay cool and the wind direction holds. If Wednesday's heat arrives early, shorten the topwater window and commit to shade and slower presentations sooner. A calm plan beats a rushed one when the thermometer climbs.

● SOURCES

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard point forecast · DWR Castaic / Angeles Forest park notices · Pure-Gas.org E0 listings. Elevations, advisories, and station lists change — verify dam boards and pump grade before you go.