



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST

Clear Lake: Hot Weekend Highs, Quiet Boards & Dawn Largemouth

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

Mostly sunny heat · Fri ~84° → Sat–Sun ~87° PT

Primary: largemouth bass

CDEC CLE boards thin at this pull · verify dam / park notices before you go

Weekend recreational builds Sat–Sun · no named trail event pulled

October is still running warm over Clear Lake — pack water for the midday glare, fish the first hour like it matters, and let the threadfin shad show you which tule line is actually alive.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

National Weather Service Eureka's point forecast for the Clear Lake basin 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 mostly sunny near **84°F** after overnight air near **63°F**, with east breeze 0–5 mph and almost no rain chance. Saturday climbs to about **87°F / 65°F** under sunny skies and a light south breeze around 3 mph. Sunday holds near **87°F / 64°F**, mostly sunny, with light east-southeast then northwest flow. No active watches or warnings for Lake County at 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 Clear Lake day: **first light through mid-morning** on shallow shade, docks, and the outside of green tule edges while air is still cool, then a slide to the first sharp break, creek-arm mouths, 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. **No named national trail event was pulled** for this water on Oct 2–4.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~84°F
Low ~63° · dry · E 0–5 mph
Mostly sunny
Sunrise ~7:05 AM · Sunset
~6:48 PM PT
*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
softest weekend traffic*

SATURDAY OCT 3

~87°F
Low ~65° · dry · S ~3 mph
Sunny / clear night
Sunrise ~7:06 AM · Sunset
~6:46 PM PT
*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
shade and docks after 11
AM*

SUNDAY OCT 4

~87°F
Low ~64° · dry · ESE then
NW light
Mostly sunny
Sunrise ~7:07 AM · Sunset
~6:45 PM PT
*Best bite: dawn shallow;
mid-day slow under cover*

● LEVEL & FLOW CHEAT SHEET

Clear Lake is a natural / managed California lake (not a peaking hydropower chain). California Department of Water Resources **CDEC station CLE** boards were thin at this pull — no fresh daily elevation string loaded for Oct 1–2. Lake County and CDFW do not publish a fixed Fri–Sun “generator calendar” for recreational anglers the way a lock-and-dam river does — treat any gate, diversion, or local advisory as live. Failover: check the CDEC CLE page and Lake County water / park notices the morning you launch, and call the county or marina desk if you need a same-day condition read. Schedules and advisories can change without notice.

WATER	OBSERVED	FLOW / BOARDS	HOW TO FISH IT
Clear Lake (CDEC CLE)	Elevation string thin at this pull	No fixed Fri–Sun public release calendar pulled	Fish structure and wind seams; treat any flow change as a live check, not a schedule

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 county page, that overrides any general weekend outlook here.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Work **Library Park** and the Lakeport waterfront for docks, riprap, and lighted night water when the breeze lays down. On the north and east sides, public shoreline near **Clearlake Oaks** and pocket parks along the Oaks Arm let you fan-cast tule edges and rocky points without a trailer. Keep casts parallel to shade lines first hour, then pick apart individual docks and brush with a Texas-rig or drop-shot once the sun climbs. Watch for private docks and posted banks — fish only public or permitted access, and give swimming beaches a wide berth after mid-morning on the weekend.

KAYAK

Launch at **Redbud Park** (Clearlake) or quiet morning slips near **Lakeport** and paddle into the nearest tule line before ski traffic wakes up. Target the outside grass, isolated rock, and any wind-blown bank within a short paddle — Clear Lake rewards covering water, but a kayak shines when you slow down on the first bait mark instead of racing the basin. Wear a PFD, mind afternoon west winds that can stack on the long fetches, and leave room for rental boats near popular ramps Saturday and Sunday. A light spinning setup with a chatterbait and a soft plastic covers most of the weekend window without a full rod locker.

BOAT

Public ramps around **Lakeport, Clearlake**, and the Oaks Arm put you on grass, docks, and main-lake points quickly. Start shallow on the shaded bank at first light with a walking bait or buzzbait, then rotate to spinnerbait or squarebill on wind-blown points and follow up with a jig or Texas-rig on the same cast once fish short-strike. Midday, slide to the first break, marina shade, and creek-arm mouths rather than burning fuel across the whole lake. Keep a spotter when running, give ski boats space on busy weekend lanes, and stay clear of any posted dam or intake area.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

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

- **Hillside Powersports** — Lakeport, CA · ~6.1 mi · E0 octane 92 · 707-263-9000
- **Chevron** — Lakeport, CA · ~6.3 mi · E0 octane 87
- **Renner Petroleum** — Cloverdale, CA · ~19.9 mi · E0 octane 92 · 707-894-0776
- **Redwood Valley** — Redwood Valley, CA · ~27.6 mi · E0 octane 92 · 707-485-5821

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 mats and tule pockets at dawn. Bone, chrome, and black are the first three colors out of the box when the surface is calm.

MID

½-oz chatterbait or willow spinnerbait on wind-blown banks; squarebill (1.5 / 2.5) along riprap and dock lines. Shad and bluegill patterns in clear water; darker profiles when wind stains a pocket.

BOTTOM

Texas-rig creature or straight worm, compact jig, and a drop-shot for deeper shade or finicky midday fish. Green pumpkin, watermelon red, and junebug cover most Clear Lake stains.

Match size to **threadfin shad and bluegill** first. Size down when fish short-strike; size up when you mark bigger bait balls on the graph. Primary species this week is **largemouth bass**.

● LARGEMOUTH BASS LIFE STAGE

Spawn is long over on Clear Lake. This weekend window is about **post-summer feeding** as nights cool and bait pushes toward edges, docks, and grass. Expect largemouth to track threadfin shad schools in the morning and to bury under docks, bridges, and tule shade once the sun and jet-ski traffic climb. Fish the bait you see — dimples on calm water, birds working a point, or graph marks on a break — rather than a calendar myth. If a cooler night sharpens the morning bite, stay shallow longer; if Saturday's heat arrives early, shorten the topwater window and commit to shade and slower presentations sooner.

What's on the menu: threadfin shad and bluegill are the most likely menu this week. Hatch reports for Clear Lake are often thin in public feeds. Lead with shad and bluegill profiles, and match the bait you mark on the graph or see dimpling on the surface.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Crappie and bluegill still earn a light spinning rod around brush and docks midday when bass shut down. **Channel catfish** pick up on deeper shade and marina corners once the afternoon heat settles. Spotted bass show on rockier main-lake stretches for anglers who want a change of pace, but largemouth remain the headline for this Cast. Keep the secondary list short and fish what you came for first.

● PRESSURE, CLARITY & BITE WINDOWS

Clarity on Clear Lake swings arm by arm — 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 weekend: **low light** = shallow shade, topwater, and buzz; **high sun** = docks, mat edges, and a slower bottom bait; **building wind** = fish the blown bank with a spinnerbait or chatterbait before you leave. Friday recreation is softer than the weekend stack, but rental boats and bank crowds still peak near popular ramps after mid-morning Saturday and Sunday — launch early, fish the plan, and treat crowd pressure as recreational unless a named event shows on the calendar.

Heavy Traffic: no named trail event pulled for Fri–Sun 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. Quagga/zebra mussel inspections and fire restrictions can appear with little notice — check Lake County and park pages 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.

● **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 Clear Lake. As nights keep dropping, expect largemouth to spend more of the morning on bait and grass edges and less time buried in the deepest shade. Confirm mussel rules, fire restrictions, and park hours as seasons flip.

● **SOURCES**

NWS Eureka point forecast for the Clear Lake area · California CDEC station CLE (elevation / storage; boards thin at this pull) · Lake County / CDFW Clear Lake access notes · Pure-Gas.org E0 listings. Elevations, advisories, and station lists change — verify dam boards and pump grade before you go.