



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · CONNECTICUT · ET

Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar: Cool Nights, Dawn Edges & Early-Fall Shift

Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat

Highs ~68° Mon → ~63° Thu (NWS OKX)

Baro KBDR ~29.92 inHg

Cool nights · NE breeze midweek

Soft recreational · no named trail event pulled

Housatonic stairway: current seams and wood when generation or river pulse shows.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

Land-point forecast near Southbury / Newtown keeps Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar in a **late-summer → early-fall cool-down** through the Monday **Cast** window (Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026ET). Daytime highs roughly **68° → 62° → 63° → 63°F** with overnight air often dipping into the upper 40s–50s (CT) or mid-50s–60s (DE south) depending on the water. Showers stay in the conversation midweek (~35% on Tue Sep 22) but are not a washout signal by themselves.

For **Largemouth bass**: lean **dawn and dusk** on shallow edges, pads, wood, and wind-blown banks while nights stay cool; once the sun climbs, slide to shade, docks, channel swings, and any soft current seams. Clarity is **unconfirmed** this gather — treat stain as wind/rain dependent. **No named trail event** (B.A.S.S. / MLF / major open) pulled for this product on Sep 21–24. Soft weekday recreational pressure only.

Seasonally this is the week northeastern ponds and river stairways start to feel like September again. Cool overnight air slows the midday shutdown that defined midsummer, so the first 90 minutes after sunrise matter more than a long idle at noon. If Tuesday–Wednesday showers arrive, treat the first hour after a cell passes as a fresh edge — baitfish push shallow, and bass often follow before the next sun climb. Keep a rain shell and a dry bag; cancel only for lightning or unsafe wind, not for a routine shower threat.

Pressure stays soft on weekdays if no club blast-off appears locally. That favors bank and kayak lanes that get walked off on Saturdays. Boat anglers should still idle through park no-wake zones and give rented pontoons a wide berth on DE state-park ponds. For river / Housatonic products, soft current is a bonus only when it is legal and safe — never crowd a spillway boil for a cast.

MON SEP 21

~68°F

Low ~50° · ~2% precip · N 10 mph

Partly Sunny

Sunrise **6:40 AM**Sunset **6:52 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

Partly sunny, with a high near 68. North wind around 10 mph.

TUE SEP 22

~62°F

Low ~48° · ~35% precip · NE 10 mph

Chance Light Rain

Sunrise **6:41 AM**Sunset **6:50 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

A chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 62. Northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch possible.

WED SEP 23

~63°F

Low ~45° · ~8% precip · NE 15 mph

Partly Sunny

Sunrise **6:42 AM**Sunset **6:48 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

Partly sunny. High near 63, with temperatures falling to around 61 in the afternoon.

THU SEP 24

~63°F

Low ~46° · ~15% precip · NE 10 to 15 mph

Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain Showers

Sunrise **6:43 AM**Sunset **6:47 PM** ET

Best bite: first light—~9 AM ET; second window late day if clouds or wind hold

A slight chance of rain showers after 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 63.

● DAM & CURRENT / LEVEL CHEAT SHEET

This product can feel **current** when the Housatonic / CT River system is pulsing. Live generator boards and exact pool numbers were **not confirmed** at this Sunday-evening gather — treat flow as qualitative. Failover: check CT DEEP / USGS gage pages and any posted dam advisory **before launch**. Dam restricted zones are off-limits.

MANAGER FLAG: No Mon–Thu unit timeline posted in this pack. Soft current→bite language only; re-pull gages before each launch.

LAKE LILLINONAH · LAKE ZOAR MON–THU

Pool / stage: **not confirmed live** at gather — qualitative only

Focus: current seams, wing walls, wood, and backwater shade on cool mornings

Safety: stay well clear of spillways and restricted water

ACCESS NOTES

Town / state ramps near Southbury / Newtown — fees and hours verify live

Weekday recreational pressure soft; weekend ski traffic rises looking ahead

PFDs; cold mornings after clear nights

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Cool mornings — layer up. Stay off private shoreline.

Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar:

Work visible cover, pads, laydowns, and windward banks at dawn/dusk near public access around Southbury / Newtown. Verify park hours and any seasonal closures live. Hydrate; Tuesday–Wednesday shower chances can build fast on DE waters. Re-check park gate times; some CT/DE parks open at dawn seasonally. Carry a headlamp for the walk-in and leave no trash on the bank.

KAYAK

Target transitional depths, quiet coves, and weed edges; use the NE breeze to drift banks when safe. Wear a PFD. Avoid dam discharge / spillway water on river products. On park ponds, launch early before recreational traffic. Spotter or whistle helps when NE breeze stacks small chop on open pockets. Stay inside marked swim areas only where fishing is allowed.

BOAT

Plan: first light–9 AM ET on shallow edges / points / pads; midday shade, docks, channel swings, and soft current seams; evening revisit shallow when light falls. Idle near ramps; watch blast-off lanes only if a local club event appears (none named at pull). Soft crowd this Mon–Thu window. Map a second ramp in case the primary lot fills after a weather delay. Livewell water stays cool on these mornings — good for catch-and-release handling.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking topwater (chrome / bone / white)

Hollow-body frog (white or black) on pads

Poppers on baitfish dimples at first light

MID

Bladed / vibrating jig (white or chartreuse shad)

Squarebill or medium crank (craw / shad)

Soft swimbait on points and channel swings

BOTTOM

Finesse or football jig (green pumpkin / brown craw)

Ned / shaky / drop-shot (green pumpkin / smoke)

Soft craw on wood and riprap once wind builds

Stain / clear match: Clarity unconfirmed. Lean natural / smoke / green on clearer days; darker craw / Junebug if midweek showers dirty the edges.

If water dirties after midweek rain, upsize profile slightly and slow the retrieve; if it stays clearer than expected, downsize to a Ned or smaller walking bait and lengthen pauses. Always let the first five casts after a wind shift tell you whether bait is on the bank or holding mid-depth.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar. Nights are finally cool enough to widen the morning window, but this is still **not** a full fall creek-run. **Largemouth bass** relate to shallow cover at dawn, then shade/wood/weed as the sun climbs. Also in the mix: smallmouth · stripers (soft) · panfish.

What's on the menu: Dated hatch reports for this exact window are thin — most likely forage is **baitfish (shad/shiners where present), bluegill / sunfish** in pads and docks, and **crawfish** on hard spots and riprap. Match profile and size; do not invent a specific hatch. Start on shad/bluegill imitators; keep a craw-colored jig ready for rock once wind or soft current scrapes bottom.

Practically: open with a walking bait or buzz along the first wind-blown bank you can reach legally, then rotate a bladed jig through the same lane once the sun clears the trees. If you mark bait mid-depth without followers, slide to a shaky or drop-shot on the next break rather than burning the shallow stretch again.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

PANFISH · PICKEREL

Bluegill / crappie: pads, brush, and creek channels — small jigs/worms. Chain pickerel: weed edges on the same dawn window as bass.

ALSO IN SEASON

smallmouth · stripers (soft) · panfish. Soft language only — confirm live regs and seasons on CT DEEP freshwater fishing guide (live).

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled for Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar Sep 21–24. Soft weekday recreational pressure. Re-skim calendars before Friday's window.

Regs live-link only: CT DEEP freshwater fishing guide (live). Do not hardcode inches or creel.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): If nights keep easing and highs settle in the 60s, expect a more honest early-fall feel — shad pushes into creek backs, less midday dead water, and better topwater windows. Watch midweek shower stains after Tuesday–Wednesday. **No named championship** on this product in the next 1–3 weeks at pull. Next **Cast:** Friday window Fri–Sun. Keep an eye on overnight lows — another 5°F drop would accelerate the fall feel. Re-pull Pure-Gas.org before a long trailer haul; E0 availability changes without notice.

ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET) — may change; verify at the pump. Pure-Gas.org does not publish pump prices; do not invent dollars.

West Street Power — 84 West St, New Milford, CT · ~11.6 mi · 860-799-7423 · VP RACING**95/98/110 octane E0** — West Street Power carries both VP and Sunoco ethanol free fuel in several different types and volumes price not listed — verify at pump

R.T. Layton Co — 19 Danbury Rd, New Milford, CT · ~11.6 mi · 860-354-4888 · UNBRANDED**112 octane E0** — WWW.laytonco.com, selling sunoco supreme 112 Runs GREAT in my vintage formula ford price not listed — verify at pump

Thomaston Power Equipment — 141b Watertown Rd, Thomaston, CT · ~16.1 mi · 860-283-5858 · UNBRANDED**93 octane E0** — We sell Kawasaki brand Ethanol-Free fuel in gallon and quart containers, as well as pre-mixed 50:1 ethanol free Stihl "M" price not listed — verify at pump

Southington Powersports — 172 Flanders Street, Southington, CT · ~22.6 mi · 860-302-9669 · VP RACING**94/98/110 octane E0** — We have quarts, gallons and 5 gallons in regular non ethanol as well as 40:1 and 50:1. 8603029669 open 6 days a week. price not listed — verify at pump

Listed **E0** stations from Pure-Gas.org (crowdsourced) pulled Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET near Lake Lillinonah · Lake Zoar. Call ahead — availability changes. Prefer the posted octane on the Pure-Gas card.

Sources: NWS land forecast near Southbury / Newtown (NWS OKX / BOX / PHI land grids) · Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET; METAR baro KBDR ~29.92 inHg; USGS / state lake pages (level qualitative); Pure-Gas.org E0 listings · Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET; trail calendars skimmed — no named event. Schedules and prices change — re-check before launch. Freshwater Cast · CT/ · Monday **Cast** · Drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~9:55 PM ET · Schedules change — re-check before launch.