Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Michigan Il area

Lake Michigan Il

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **51–58°F**, lows **41–50°F**, rain chance up to **~0%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

51° F high

LOW	41°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:40 AM / 4:29 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

53° F high

LOW	44°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:41 AM / 4:28 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

58° F high

LOW	50°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:42 AM / 4:27 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SSW → S · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:40 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.

Basis: estimated water ~56°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: Shad and bluegill on points and wood — chrome/white early, green-pumpkin plastics later.

ALSO BITING

Crappie on the same timber with a small jig if you slow down. Catfish after dark near deeper wood if you stay late.

PRESSURE

Weekday traffic — lighter than the weekend. Fish early, give ramps and swim areas room.

WATER BOARD — LAKE CHEAT SHEET

FIXED Natural / small-impoundment water — no generation table. Check access rules and level notes with the managing agency before you go.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	On Lake Michigan, verify trailer parking and any day-use rules before you leave the lot.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank fishing starts at Calumet Park public launch on Lake Michigan, Chicago (Cook Co.). Shared-water Illinois shore access. From the truck you can reach the first shade line, brush pile, or drop within a short walk — work a soft stickbait or weightless fluke along the shade, then pitch a compact jig into the nearest wood.

KAYAK

Kayak anglers should launch at the same public access — Calumet Park public launch on Lake Michigan, Chicago (Cook Co.). Shared-water Illinois shore access — and hug the protected shoreline rather than crossing open water when a breeze is up.

BOAT

Trailers use the public ramp at Calumet Park public launch on Lake Michigan, Chicago (Cook Co.). Shared-water Illinois shore access — launch, clear the lane, and idle out before you plane.

LURE BOX

TOP

Michigan City Muni Airport — 1300 Hwy 212, Michigan City, IN · ~30.0 mi. B&E Marine — 31 Lake Shore Dr, Michigan City, IN · ~32.1 mi. Meijer — 5150 S Franklin, Michigan City, IN · ~32.7 mi.

MID

Spinnerbait or squarebill on points. Bladed jig when stain bumps after wind or traffic.

BOTTOM

Texas-rigged creature in timber. Shaky head or wacky rig on the outside edge. Stain/clear: Stained to moderately clear — bump contrast if wind dirties a point.