



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST IOWA

Rathbun Lake: Hybrid striped bass & crappie Midweek Plan

Monday Sep 21 – Thursday Sep 24, 2026 · Rathbun Lake · bank, kayak & boat · times in **CT**primary: Hybrid striped bass & crappie

Zone CT

Primary: Hybrid striped bass & crappie

Mon–Thu midweek

Rathbun Lake will not reinvent itself overnight — but if you treat ****hybrid striped bass & crappie**** as the lead story and keep a lightning plan for midweek cells, Mon–Thu still hands you a usable window.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS DMX / Mystic corridor (pin Rathbun Lake; pulled Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~8:45 PM CT). All clock references below are **CT**. **Monday:** ~63°F — Chance Rain Showers · precip ~48% · 8 mph NE **Tuesday:** ~61°F — Slight Chance Rain Showers · precip ~21% · 8 mph NE **Wednesday:** ~63°F — Sunny · precip ~0% · 5 mph ENE **Thursday:** ~65°F — Partly Sunny · precip ~9% · 2 mph E **Barometer / clarity:** not instrumented this pull — qualitative only. **Crowd:** Weekday soft unless noted. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu** at Sunday evening research (do not invent).

WINDOW

Mon–Thu

through Thu evening CT

WATER CLARITY / DEPTH

Estimate only — no live turbidity used. Re-check after storms.

Match primary species: shallow edges dawn/dusk; deeper structure midday / post-front.

CROWD / PRESSURE

Weekday soft. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu.** Soft recreational only.

MONDAY

~63°F

Chance Rain Showers · precip ~48% · 8 mph NE

Local times CT

Fish weather edges; off water for lightning

TUESDAY

~61°F

Slight Chance Rain Showers · precip ~21% · 8 mph NE

Local times CT

Fish weather edges; off water for lightning

WEDNESDAY

~63°F

Sunny · precip ~0% · 5 mph ENE

Local times CT

Fish weather edges; off water for lightning

THURSDAY

~65°F

Partly Sunny · precip ~9% · 2 mph E

Local times CT

Fish weather edges; off water for lightning

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Pull Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~8:45 PM CT. Elevations and discharges are **not invented** — boards THIN at this pull; soft re-check before launch.

PROJECT	OBSERVED	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	HOW TO FISH IT
USACE Rathbun Lake USACE Rock Island District · Iowa DNR Fish Iowa	THIN at Sunday evening pull — no inventing elevations or unit counts. verify agency boards before you go.	No fixed Mon–Thu public generator calendar confirmed at pull. Soft re-check language.	Fish structure and bait first; when releases pulse, bait rearranges near channels — kayaks need an exit plan.

Schedules change — re-check before launch.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Dawn/dusk primary-species windows on public banks and park access.

Watch sky Tue–Wed if storms in forecast.

Respect private docks / restricted zones.

KAYAK

Protected coves when main-lake wind rises.

PFD; skip stilling basins / restricted water.

Soft weekday ramp ease vs weekend.

BOAT

Graph bait / primary forage first.

Storm edges can turn bites briefly — then leave for lightning.

Soft weekday traffic; plan around any local events you confirm live.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · NEAR THIS WATER

Source: [Pure-Gas.org](https://pure-gas.org) pulled **Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~8:45 PM CT**

Current prices — may change; verify at the pump. Pure-Gas does not post pump prices; no prices invented.

Bridgeview Bait & Tackle — 11367 Hwy S-70, Melrose, IA · ~1.8 mi · 87 octane E0 · UNBRANDED price not listed on Pure-Gas — verify at the pump 641-724-9820 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Hy-Vee — 609 N 18th St, Centerville, IA · ~11.1 mi · 91 octane E0 · HY-VEE price not listed on Pure-Gas — verify at the pump 641-437-1005 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Casey's — 105 S 18th St, Centerville, IA · ~11.6 mi · 87 octane E0 · CASEY'S price not listed on Pure-Gas — verify at the pump 641-255-0349 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Centerville Muni Airport — 20320 545th St, Centerville, IA · ~13.7 mi · 87/100 octane E0 · UNBRANDED price not listed on Pure-Gas — verify at the pump 641-437-4580 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

● LURE BOX — TOP / MID / BOTTOM

TOP

Chrome walking bait on boils

Small topwater when birds work

Spoon on surface busts

MID

Small shad crank

Sassy shad / paddle tail

Casting spoon

BOTTOM

Vertical jigging spoon

Blade bait

Live shad where legal

Stain/clear: Match water: natural/smoke in clear; chartreuse/black in stain after storms.

● PRIMARY SPECIES LIFE STAGE + WHAT'S ON THE MENU

Late summer → early fall transition on Rathbun Lake. **Primary this week: Hybrid striped bass & crappie.** Large USACE reservoir — wipers/hybrids and crappie often as important as largemouth midweek; bass still present on rock.

What's on the menu (most likely): **gizzard shad + shad imitators.** Tie lure size/color/retrieve to that forage — do not invent a specific hatch.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- ****Crappie / panfish**** — brush and docks
- ****Catfish**** — cut bait / night
- ****White bass / hybrids**** — if shad schools show

Iowa fishing regs (live-check): <https://www.iowadnr.gov/fishing>

● LOOKING AHEAD

Cooler trend into late week may speed early-fall feel. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu.** Re-check dam boards and NWS before each launch.

Sources: NWS forecast pull Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~8:45 PM CT; Pure-Gas.org E0 identity Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~8:45 PM CT; agency dam boards THIN/not confirmed this pull. Schedules change — re-check before launch.

Freshwater Cast · IN/ · Monday Cast · Iowa · Drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 · ~8:45 PM CT · Schedules change — re-check before launch.