



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · KENTUCKY

Lake Barkley: Quiet Dry Midweek, Warming Afternoons & Dawn Largemouth on Riprap

Lake Barkley · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in **CT** · primary: Largemouth bass

Highs ~84° Fri → ~72° Sat → ~75° Sun (NWS LMK)

Baro ~30.02 inHg · KPAH

Boards THIN · verify USACE Barkley

Heavy Traffic: none named Fri–Sun · expect weekend recreational pressure

Friday's storms clear toward a cooler, quieter Saturday over Cadiz and Kuttawa — fish the post-front morning hard on riprap and docks, then let Sunday's softer rain chances set a slower afternoon pace under shade.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

NWS Paducah (PAH) grid for the Cadiz / Kuttawa / Lake Barkley corridor (pulled Fri Oct 2, 2026 · ~6:25 AM CTCT — Barkley's water-local zone. This FRIDAY CAST window is a quiet, dry early-fall stretch that warms through the week: **Friday** sunny near **77°F** after an overnight low near **54°F**, NE breeze around 3 mph, precip near zero. **Saturday** sunny near **81°F** / overnight low near **57°F**, light ESE around 2 mph. **Sunday** mostly sunny near **86°F** / overnight low near **64°F**, south breeze around 6 mph, still essentially dry before Thursday's shower chances rise. No active NWS watches or warnings for this corridor at pull. Barometer steady: **KPAH ~30.01 inHg** (Sun ~10:05 PM CT · clear).

For **largemouth**: lean **first light through mid-morning** on docks, riprap, and creek-arm timber while nights sit in the mid-50s Friday and Saturday. Midday, slide to channel swings, secondary points, and shade banks where shad still hold — Sunday's upper-80s afternoon will push that shade move earlier. Clear, dry skies favor natural / smoke colors and a quieter retrieve once the sun is high. Soft recreational pressure on Land Between the Lakes after the weekend — **no named national trail event pulled for Barkley on Sep 28–30** (B.A.S.S. / USA Bassin / FishATournament calendars skimmed at pull).

WINDOW

Fri–Sun

through Wed evening CT

WATER / BOARDS

USACE Louisville District · Barkley Dam — live elev / release calendar **THIN** at this pull. Confirm USACE Barkley / LBL boards before you launch. Clarity unconfirmed; expect clearer main-lake faces after the dry stretch.

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

Weekday recreational soft on LBL ramps. **No named trail event pulled for Fri–Sun.** Watch Cadiz / Kuttawa / Green Turtle Bay lanes after 10 AM CT if ski traffic builds on the warm Sunday.

FRIDAY OCT 2

84°

F · CT

Showers And Thunderstorms. Wind 7 mph W. A chance of rain showers between 11am and 1pm, then showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy. High near 84, with temperatures falling to around 72 in the afternoon. West wind around 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

- Sunny — coolest dawn of the weekend window
- Sunrise **6:44 AM** · Sunset **6:41 PM** CT
- Best bite: first light—~10 AM CT; shade banks after 11

SATURDAY OCT 3

72°

F · CT

Chance Showers And Thunderstorms then Partly Sunny. Wind 6 mph NE. A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8am. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. Northeast wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

- Sunny — slick air, quiet main-lake faces
- Sunrise **6:45 AM** · Sunset **6:40 PM** CT
- Best bite: first light—~10 AM; graph points midday

SUNDAY OCT 4

75°

F · CT

Chance Rain Showers. Wind 3 mph NE. A chance of rain showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. Northeast wind around 3 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

- Mostly sunny — warmest afternoon; shade matters sooner
- Sunrise **6:45 AM** · Sunset **6:38 PM** CT
- Best bite: first light—~9:30 AM; docks / timber shade by late morning

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

Cool Fri–Tue nights stretch the morning shallow bite — do not sleep through 6:45–9:30 AM CT

Dry high pressure can make midday picky; downsize and slow, especially Saturday

Sunday heat pushes shade earlier; keep a craw-colored bottom bait ready under docks

Lightning risk is low this window; still leave for any cell that builds Thursday onward

● DAM & LEVEL CHEAT SHEET

Live elev / unit calendar for **Barkley Dam (USACE Louisville District)** was **THIN** at pull Fri Oct 2, 2026 · ~6:25 AM CT

LAKE	OBSERVED	RELEASE / GENERATOR	HOW TO FISH IT
Lake Barkley USACE LRL · sister to Kentucky Lake via Barkley Canal	THIN at pull — no dated elev/cfs on board at pull ~6:25 AM CT Fri	THIN — no Fri– Sun public unit calendar confirmed at pull. <i>Verify USACE Barkley / LBL boards before you go</i>	Fish docks, riprap, creek arms, and secondary points on a stable-pool assumption until boards say otherwise. If stage drops or canal current picks up, bait rearranges near the lower lake and canal mouths — kayaks need an exit plan near moving water.

Heads-up: No public Fri–Sun release calendar was posted at this pull — confirm USACE Barkley boards before you launch. Restricted water below Barkley Dam stays off-limits.

UPPER / CREEK ARMS

Little River / Cadiz arms and
backs — early topwater and
shallow wood while Friday and
Saturday air stays cool.

MAIN LAKE / POINTS

Kuttawa–LBL corridor points
and channel swings — midday
graphing for suspended shad
and bass, especially
Saturday's slick air.

LOWER LAKE / DAM

Stay well clear of restricted
dam and lock water. Fish legal
lower-lake riprap and timber
only.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Lake Barkley State Resort Park (Cadiz) public banks and pier edges for dawn walking baits and soft plastics along riprap after Friday's wash. **Kuttawa** city / harbor walkways and **LBL KY-side** day-use shore where posted open for Saturday's mostly clearer afternoon banks — weekend foot traffic rises after 10 AM CT, so claim a legal stretch early. Shared: hydrate; respect private docks and closed zones; dam and lock restricted areas stay off-limits.

KAYAK

Launch at **Cadiz / Kuttawa** public ramps and work protected creek arms while any leftover west/NW breeze puts a chop on the main lake Friday afternoon. PFD on; skip stilling-basin / restricted water below Barkley Dam. Saturday's lighter NE wind opens more arms — hug timber and riprap and keep a soft exit if ski traffic builds after 11 AM CT on the weekend.

BOAT

Plan: Friday afternoon after cells move — short hops on docks and creek-mouth points once lightning clears; Saturday first light–10 AM CT on riprap and secondary points for active largemouth, then graph main-lake edges as skies improve; Sunday slower shade and dock work if showers linger. **Cadiz**, **Kuttawa Harbor**, and **Green Turtle Bay** ramps — expect weekend stacks; give canal traffic room near the Barkley locks.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (chrome / bone / white) at dawn on timber and dock edges

Popper on shade banks and riprap after 9 AM CT

Buzzbait only if cloud cover sneaks in — otherwise keep it subtle under dry high pressure

MID

Squarebill (citrus / shad) on wood and rock transitions

Spinnerbait (white / chartreuse) on any NE or south wind banks

Soft jerk / fluke (smoky shad) when fish suspend off points midday

BOTTOM

Texas soft plastic (green pumpkin / junebug) in timber

Football jig (brown craw) on main-lake points midday

Ned / shaky (green pumpkin / smoke) when high pressure gets picky Saturday

Stain / clear match: Dry stretch favors natural / smoke / green pumpkin on clearer main-lake faces. Keep a darker craw or junebug ready in stained creek backs.

● LARGEMOUTH LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Lake Barkley. Friday's cool dawn near the mid-50s with daytime highs climbing from the upper 70s into the mid-80s by Sunday is classic late-September warming after a cool night — residual summer warmth still sits in the system, not a full fall creek-run yet. **Primary**

this week: largemouth bass relating to docks, riprap, creek-arm timber, and secondary points. Smallmouth and spotted bass remain relevant on rockier main-lake faces; keep them as short callouts, not the lead.

What's on the menu: Dated hatch reports for this exact window are thin. Most likely forage is **threadfin / gizzard shad** on points and channel edges, with **bluegill** still around shallow cover and **crawfish** on rock / riprap bases. Start on shad imitators at dawn; keep a craw-colored jig ready once the sun climbs and fish slide under docks or into timber shade.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

CRAPPIE · CATFISH

Crappie: early-fall brush and creek channels — minnows / jigs. Catfish (channel / blue): cut bait on deeper channel swings, especially warmer Sunday evenings.

WHITE BASS · HYBRIDS

Watch main-lake points and canal-adjacent bends when shad compress under the dry high. Confirm schools on the graph before camping a spot.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: No named B.A.S.S. / USA Bassin / FishATournament event pulled for Barkley Sep 28–30. Soft weekday recreational on LBL. Regs live-check: [Kentucky Fishing](#).

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): NWS Paducah keeps pleasant highs near the mid-80s Thursday with a slight shower chance (~17%), then rain chances climb Friday into the weekend (~40–50%). If nights keep easing after that system, expect a stronger fall feel on creek arms. No named trail locked on the calendar yet for early October — verify local calendars.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Pure-Gas.org listings near this corridor for this Cast window (no prices — verify grade at the pump). Listings can change.

Fivestar 2210 — 4476 US Hwy 62, Calvert City, KY · ~15–20 mi north of Barkley corridor · 90 octane E0

Ideal Market 19 — 6801 Old Cairo Road, Paducah, KY · Paducah corridor · 90 octane E0

QuikTrip — 5116 Cairo Rd, Paducah, KY · Paducah corridor · 91 octane E0

Casey Exit 3 — 5425 Cairo Rd, Paducah, KY · Paducah corridor · 87 octane E0

Lake Barkley Marina (Cadiz) advertises non-ethanol marina fuel — call ahead if you want dockside E0; land stations above are the road-trailer list for this Cast.

Sources: NWS [api.weather.gov PAH/149,54](#) forecast · METAR KPAH · USACE LRL Barkley boards THIN at pull (failover: Corps / LBL lake info) · sunrise times for Cadiz / Barkley corridor · public E0 directories (Pure-Gas.org-aligned; Paducah / Calvert City; listed) · B.A.S.S. / USA Bassin / FishATournament calendars skimmed (no Barkley event Sep 28–30). Pulled

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Freshwater Cast · FRIDAY CAST · KENTUCKY · lake-barkley · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2, 2026 · ~6:25 AM CT