



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · LOUISIANA

Henderson Lake: Sunny Midweek Basin Heat, Largemouth on Cypress & Canal Edges

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

Fri ~92° → Sun ~82° (NWS LCH)

Fri–Sun window · CT

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

Friday's mostly sunny then slight chance showers and thunderstorms near 92°F give way to Saturday near 84°F (chance showers and thunderstorms) and Sunday near 82°F (showers and thunderstorms) — fish the windows between weather, lean down on cover, and plan for weekend recreational pressure.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

NWS Lake Charles (LCH) grid LCH 111,87 pulled Fri Oct 2, 2026 · ~6:40 AM CT. Friday high near **92°F** (Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms); overnight low near **72°F**. Saturday near **84°F** (Chance Showers And Thunderstorms); Sunday near **82°F** (Showers And Thunderstorms). Numbers change — confirm before you launch.

FRIDAY OCT 2

92°F · Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms · wind 5 to 10 mph E

Storm chances — fish protected banks and docks between cells; sit out lightning. Once cells clear, a short evening window can fire along riprap and shallow wood. Watch wind shifts after fronts (CT).

SATURDAY OCT 3

84°F · Chance Showers And Thunderstorms · wind 10 mph E

Early leftover showers possible — fish the clean-up after 8 AM CT on secondary points and docks. High near 84°F; keep a rain shell and a slower bottom bait ready.

SUNDAY OCT 4

82°F · Showers And Thunderstorms · wind 5 to 10 mph NE

Showers in the mix — protected creek arms and docks between cells; skip open water if lightning. High near 82°F; evening bank bite can return as traffic softens (CT).

How to fish this weather

For **largemouth** (primary on Henderson Lake this week): lead with docks, timber, riprap, and shade cover on sunny high-pressure days. Dawn shallow windows are the money; midweek heat makes midday picky — downsize and work deeper shade until evening. Keep presentations compact — tubes, Ned rigs, jigs, and small swimbaits in craw and shad tones.

Hydrate on the hot banks. Weekend recreational pressure — still watch ramp stacks after mid-morning when the thermometer climbs.

● DAM & LEVEL CHEAT SHEET

THIN at pull Sun Sep 27, 2026 · ~10:50 PM CT. Use live elev/cfs from agency boards only — do not invent a unit schedule. Failover: LDWF / Atchafalaya access notes · Henderson ramp boards.

ZONE	LEVEL / FLOW NOTE	BITE NOTE
Henderson / east	THIN at pull — no dated elev on board	Henderson public banks for dawn soft plastics along cypress when posted open.
Main cypress	THIN — verify live before you trailer	Main cypress pockets midweek.
Canal / basin ties	THIN — Henderson / basin public boards THIN at pull	Canal edges toward basin ties — watch larger-boat traffic and respect no-wake where posted.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Hot dawns; hydrate early. Skip private docks and closed zones. **Henderson public banks / park access** where posted for dawn soft plastics on cypress — fees verify live. **Day-use shore** midweek for shade. Stay clear of restricted basin structures. Live-check ramp notices and any temporary park closures before you commit the morning. Give paddle traffic a wide berth near swim areas and courtesy docks. Carry a dry bag for the phone when fog or spray cuts visibility on the open.

KAYAK

Plan: Launch Henderson public access and work protected cypress pockets and canal edges. PFD on the whole float; give commercial and larger recreational traffic room on basin ties. Soft recreational rebound — marked exit after 11 AM CT when traffic builds. Live-check ramp notices and any temporary park closures before you commit the morning. Give paddle traffic a wide berth near swim areas and courtesy docks. Carry a dry bag for the phone when fog or spray cuts visibility on the open.

BOAT

Plan: First light–10 AM CT on cypress, canal edges, and shade pockets for active largemouth; late morning graph deeper edges; evening shade. Henderson ramps — weekday stacks lighter than weekends; watch basin traffic and idle clear of no-wake and swim lines. Live-check ramp notices and any temporary park closures before you commit the morning. Give paddle traffic a wide berth near swim areas and courtesy docks.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (chrome / bone)
on calm dawn banks

Popper / buzz on shade
docks midweek

Spinnerbait (white /
chartreuse) along windward
timber

MID

3–4" swimbait (shad) on
points

Squarebill (craw / chartreuse)
ticking riprap

Jerkbait on clearer main-lake
edges

BOTTOM

Tube (green pumpkin) on rock
and docks

Ned / shaky when high
pressure gets picky

Football jig dragging points
and brush

Stain / clear match: Clarity unconfirmed this window. Lean craw / Junebug in creek arms; chrome / white on clearer main-lake rock.

● LARGEMOUTH LIFE STAGE

Early-fall largemouth on Henderson key on cypress, canal edges, and shade under sunny high pressure. Dawn windows are strongest; midday gets picky in the low-to-mid 90s. Craw and shad; stay honest. Access scope is freshwater Henderson / Atchafalaya edge — not a salt story.

What's on the menu: Crayfish, shad, bluegill along cypress and canals. Thin hatch reports.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

CRAPPIE · BREAM

Crappie: cypress brush early and late. Bream:
shade pockets on a light float.

CATFISH

Channel cats near deeper canal swings — cut
bait. Confirm regs with LDWF.

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named national trail event pulled for Henderson Lake Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4 (calendars skimmed). Weekend recreational pressure; warmer midweek afternoons can thicken pleasure traffic after mid-morning. Still watch ramp stacks.

Treat the sunny Monday as a confidence dawn window — arrive early, fish shade and cover before the recreational stack builds, and leave a backup creek arm or timber pocket if main-lake ski traffic wakes up after lunch. Warm overnight lows keep fish shallow at first light; once the sun clears the trees, rotate to brushier shade lines instead of burning bright banks.

Local clocks on this product are labeled in the hero (CT). Ramp manners matter midweek: idle clear of launch lanes, share the courtesy dock, and give paddle traffic room near the parks. Any thunder still means off the water even on a sunny forecast. Carry spare terminal tackle — docks, timber, and riprap eat tubes and Ned heads faster than open-water days.

When the graph shows bait pinned to a windward point, match size before color — a compact swimbait or tube often outfishes a big fall profile until the fish show themselves. On bank days, rotate shade docks and timber seams instead of camping one corner all morning. Kayak anglers

fish a triangle of two protected pockets and one secondary point so a lee option is always close.

Boat anglers should leave a margin before afternoon recreational lanes on the warm midweek days. Rising afternoon temperatures can make midday picky — downsize line, tip with a smaller trailer, and work deeper shade until the evening bank bite returns. Stained creek arms still fish; clearer main-lake rock wants cleaner presentations and a slower retrieve once the sun goes high.

A light rain shell still belongs in the boat if fog thickens before the sun burns it off, or if Wednesday's outlook teases later storms. If a local club blast-off appears midweek despite the calendar skim, give them the main ramp lane for twenty minutes and start on a secondary access rather than forcing a crowded courtesy dock. Keep the primary story on largemouth cover; secondary species are bonuses once you have a few fish in the well.

Pack a spare spool of fluorocarbon in the eight-to-twelve pound range for clearer edges and a slightly heavier braid leader when you punch brushy docks or timber. Re-tie after every big fish or snag — high-pressure sunny days punish a nick you would ignore under cloud cover. Log water color at the ramp so you can match stain notes on the next trip without guessing from memory.

Under bluebird midweek skies, commit to a short bait list before you leave the ramp: one walking or popping topwater for the calm dawn, one compact bottom bait for midday shade, and one reaction bait for any breeze that orients bait on points. Changing every ten casts under high pressure usually costs more fish than it finds on these Louisiana waters.

If morning fog hangs past sunrise, fish the first hour closer to the ramp instead of crossing open water blind. Once the sun burns through, expand to secondary points and windward timber. On bank days, walk a longer stretch of public shoreline rather than camping one corner — early-fall fish slide along shade seams as the sun climbs.

Carry polarized glasses for dock and timber peering under the bright midday sun — spotting bait or fish under floats often beats casting blind at every piling. Keep a soft exit if afternoon recreational traffic stacks near the main ramps, and give paddle traffic room near parks and swim areas.

Verify live park fees, launch hours, and any temporary ramp notices the night before — midweek events or maintenance can close a favorite lane without updating every social post. Numbers on boards and forecasts change overnight even under a stable sunny pattern, so confirm the NWS grid and a nearby METAR before you trailer.

Keep the primary story on largemouth cover this week, and treat secondary species as bonuses once you have a few fish in the well. Midweek manners at the ramp still matter even when the calendar looks quiet.

● LOOKING AHEAD

Sunny midweek with a Wednesday later storm chance on the outlook — bank dawn windows while the pattern stays dry.

● 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. Breaux Bridge Heberts is the closest practical stop; Lafayette Murphy fills longer hauls. None confirmed at every Henderson ramp at pull.

Heberts — 1046 C Henderson Hwy, Breaux Bridge, LA · Breaux Bridge · 90 octane E0

Murphy USA — 2420 W Pinhook Rd, Lafayette, LA · Lafayette · 87 octane E0

Murphy Express 8786 — 900 Ambassador Caffery, Lafayette, LA · Lafayette · 87 octane E0

Sources: NWS api.weather.gov LCH/111,87 forecast · METAR KLFT ~29.92 inHg (21005KT · A2992) · Henderson / basin public boards THIN at pull (failover: LDWF / Atchafalaya access notes · Henderson ramp boards) · public E0 directories (Pure-Gas.org-aligned; listed; no prices) · trail calendars skimmed (no named event Fri–Sun Oct 2–4). Pulled Fri Oct 2, 2026 · ~6:40 AM CT. Numbers change — confirm conditions and the forecast before you launch.

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