Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Branch Lake: Cool Nights, Fall Rock Bite & a Frosty Midweek area

Branch Lake: Cool Nights, Fall Rock Bite & a Frosty Midweek

Maine
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Eastern Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

9/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 8–9 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~0%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **46–55°F**, lows **26–35°F**, rain chance up to **~0%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

46° F high

LOW	26°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	NW 3–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:31 AM / 4:05 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

TUESDAY NOV 17

50° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 3–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:33 AM / 4:04 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

55° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	W 5–9 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:34 AM / 4:03 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: NW → W · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:31 AM EST) → ~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 **Smallmouth plan: Go subsurface and a notch slower: edges of drop-offs, rocky points and bluff ends between the fall flats and the 20-40 ft winter depth; jerkbait with pauses, small jig or hula grub on the bottom, blade bait ripped off the bottom on points.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the late fall transition — water in the low-to-mid 50s, so they are staging on drop-off edges, points and bends between their summer spots and the deep wintering holes.

Basis: estimated water ~49°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day

NATURAL FORAGE

Yellow perch, crayfish, and smelt (on deeper western lakes) fill the menu. Match the bait you see.

ALSO BITING

Landlocked salmon · brook trout. On western mountain lakes nearby, salmon and brook trout cruise shallower.

PRESSURE

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

response), adjusted by 1 nearby USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Confirm	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	maine.gov
Clarity	Clear water favors natural colors and longer casts.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank access on Branch Lake is mostly at the public launch and any posted shoreline next to it. Arrive early, park clear of the trailer lane, and fish the nearest rocky edge or riprap where it is posted open. At first light, cast a small walking bait or a tube along that edge.

KAYAK

Launch at the public ramp on Branch Lake and stay close to shore on the first paddle. Work the nearest points, boulder edges, and the first drop-off with a tube, a Ned rig, or a small swimbait, and move only as far as you can still see the ramp in a rising breeze.

BOAT

Launch at the public trailer ramp on Branch Lake and clear the dock quickly so the next trailer can launch. From late morning to midafternoon after cold nights, fish rocky points and the first deep break with a tube, a jerkbait, or a drop-shot, and graph for bait before you make a long move.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait on calm points. Small popper along rock at dusk. Streamer or small spoon near the surface for salmon.

MID

Suspending jerkbait on points. Small silver spoon trolled or cast along drops. Swimbait counted down off rock piles.

BOTTOM

Tube dragged on rock. Drop-shot for marked fish. Ned rig along boulder edges.