Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Potomac River (non-tidal MD) area

Potomac River (non-tidal MD)

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

9/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 0–6 mph usable ripple	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **56–66°F**, lows **26–29°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

56° F high

LOW	26°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	NW 1–6 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:59 AM / 4:58 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

62° F high

LOW	26°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:01 AM / 4:58 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

66° F high

LOW	29°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	0 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:02 AM / 4:57 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:59 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 ~53°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a river (10-day response), adjusted by 1 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

Black-and-blue or green football jig or compact river jig, trailers matched to local forage. Ned / small shaky head — cold dawn when fish will not chase Small crankbait in shad or craw — first break off points.

ALSO BITING

Panfish & walleye (bonus). Cool nights can pull panfish and any walleye tighter to seams and rock.

PRESSURE

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

USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

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
Clarity	Natural greens and browns match highland and stained shore water; flash gets the nod on the windblown bank when baitfish are pushed shallow.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Fish from the posted public shore and ramp riprap only along Potomac River (non-tidal MD). Parallel-cast the windward bank and any creek-mouth stain with a compact spinnerbait, tube, or soft stick worm.

KAYAK

Launch from the posted Maryland public access and stay inside the protected bank and eddy line until the breeze lays down. Work current seams, rock, and any visible wood with a Ned rig, tube, or small jig, stopping to fan-cast any confluence where a creek dumps stain into the main stem.

BOAT

Use the posted Maryland public access on Potomac River (non-tidal MD). Confirm ramp and motor rules on the board before you drop. The breeze pushes waves into open river stretches — fish the windward bank and creek mouths with short casts, and save long mid-river runs for calmer or.

LURE BOX

TOP

Trailers matched to local forage Walking bone or chrome topwater — calm /surface Ned / small shaky head — cold dawn when fish will not chase Also in the box.

MID

No mid-depth slot on file for this water.

BOTTOM

Green-pumpkin stick worm. One on a bottom contact bait so you can switch without re-tying when the frost bite turns. Natural greens and browns match highland and stained shore water.