Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Michigan (Michigan waters) area

Lake Michigan (Michigan waters)

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

8/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~2%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **50–56°F**, lows **43–47°F**, rain chance up to **~2%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

50° F high

LOW	43°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 5–15 mph
RAIN	~2%
SUN	7:40 AM / 5:12 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

TUESDAY NOV 17

54° F high

LOW	45°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:41 AM / 5:11 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

56° F high

LOW	47°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 10–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:43 AM / 5:10 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING
- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:40 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 lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Ned / small shaky head — cold dawn when fish will not chase Small crankbait in shad or craw — first break off points. Soft creature bait for shady wood on the warm-up.

ALSO BITING

Yellow perch & walleye (bonus). Cool nights can pull perch and any walleye tighter to nearshore breaks and harbor structure.

PRESSURE

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

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 stained shore water; flash gets the nod on the windblown bank when baitfish are pushed shallow.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Fish from posted public shore and harbor waterfront only along Lake Michigan (Michigan waters). Stay on posted public ground, give boat traffic room at the launch throat, and treat this as open Great Lakes water for wind and cold.

KAYAK

Launch from the posted public access at Public ramp on Lake Michigan in Grand Traverse County (confirm the posted launch before you trailer) and treat Lake Michigan (Michigan waters) as open Great Lakes water. The sun is the best paddle day of the window — hug the protected shoreline and rock flats until you know the fetch.

BOAT

Trailering boats use Public ramp on Lake Michigan in Grand Traverse County (confirm the posted launch before you trailer). Confirm ramp hours and any motor notes on the board before you drop. Idle nearshore rock and points with short casts; save longer runs for calmer or only if the lake lays down.

LURE BOX

TOP

No topwater slot on file for this water — stay mid / bottom.

MID

No mid-depth slot on file for this water.

BOTTOM

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