



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · PENNSYLVANIA

Blue Marsh: Hot Friday Storm Edge, Cool Dry Saturday & Soft Sunday Showers

Blue Marsh Lake · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times ET

Highs ~84° Fri → ~71° Sat → ~66° Sun (NWS PHI south band)

KRDG ~29.96 · KMDT ~29.95 inHg (Fri AM)

Pool 290.16 ft · Tulpehocken ~48 cfs (Fri AM)

Weekend recreational · no named trail event pulled Fri–Sun

October opens with a summer leftover Friday high near the mid-80s and a late-day shower chance on the Reading metro reservoir — fish Dry Brooks and State Hill at cool dawn, treat the storm edge as a Bonus Round if it stays light, then ride Saturday's crisp dry cool-down when Blue Marsh wood and weed finally feel like fall.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

NWS Mount Holly (PHI) grid for the southern Pennsylvania corridor covering this water this Cast window (PHI 17,94), pulled Friday morning, sets up an early-October flip: one sticky warm day, then a clean cool-down. **Friday** runs partly sunny with a high near **84°F**, west wind 0–15 mph, and a ~50% chance of rain showers after about 2 PM ET (under a tenth of an inch if they fire). Overnight low near **54°F** with a lingering shower chance before 10 PM. **Saturday** turns mostly sunny and fall-like — high near **71°F** / overnight low near **52°F**, light north wind around 5 mph, and dry. **Sunday** cools to near **66°F** under mostly cloudy skies, east wind 5–10 mph, and another ~50% shower chance after 8 AM (light). No active NWS watches or warnings at the Friday-morning pull. Nearby METARs around 7:10 AM ET Friday: **KRDG ~29.96** and **KMDT ~29.95 inHg** — a firm high.

For black bass: protect Friday's first light before the heat and afternoon shower risk, then lean into Saturday's cool, dry morning when nights in the low 50s should pull bait and fish shallower on points, wood, and weed edges. Sunday's cooler, showery look favors a slower presentation and cloud-cover topwater or spinnerbait if rain stays light. Soft weekend recreational pressure expected at Dry Brooks — **no named trail tournament pulled** for Fri–Sun on Blue Marsh.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~84°F

Low tonight ~54° · ~50% showers · W 0–15 mph

Partly sunny, then late shower chance

Sunrise **7:01 AM** · Sunset **6:44 PM ET**

Best bite: first light—~9:30 AM ET; midday shade/wood; watch the afternoon shower edge

SATURDAY OCT 3

~71°F

Low ~52° · ~0% storms · N ~5 mph

Mostly sunny · clean cool-down day

Sunrise **7:02 AM** · Sunset **6:42 PM ET**

Best bite: dawn through mid-morning on points and creek mouths; midday rock transitions 8–18 ft

SUNDAY OCT 4

~66°F

Low ~54° · ~50% showers · E 5–10 mph

Mostly cloudy with soft shower chances

Sunrise **7:03 AM** · Sunset **6:41 PM ET**

Best bite: cloudy low-light windows; slow down if rain light; protect any clear dawn pocket

BITE TIE-IN

Cool nights into the low 50s plus Saturday's dry high = morning bass on wood points and weed edges where bait marks, then a midday slide as the sun climbs. Friday's heat compresses the dawn window; Sunday's clouds can stretch a spinnerbait or walking bait if showers stay soft. Keep a shad-profile soft bait ready when birds tip schools along the main lake.

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Blue Marsh is a USACE Baltimore District flood-control lake on the Tulpehocken Creek system. There is **no public hour-by-hour unit board** for anglers. Live numbers below are USGS instantaneous values from the Friday-morning pull; schedules and releases can change without a friendly heads-up. Pool at 290.16 ft keeps ramps and shoreline wood in a normal early-October band — no flood-pool story this window.

SOURCE	LIVE PULL (FRI OCT 2 MORNING ET)	WHAT IT MEANS THIS WEEKEND
Pool elevation USGS 01470870 Blue Marsh Lake near Bernville, PA	290.16 ft ~7:00 AM ET Oct 2	Sitting in a normal early-October operating band — docks, ramps, and shoreline structure fish “normal pool.” No flood-pool story this window.
Inflow / Tulpehocken context USGS 01470779 Tulpehocken Creek near Bernville, PA	~48 cfs · gage ~1.57 ft ~7:15 AM ET Oct 2	Inflow is quiet — main-lake wood should fish relatively clear; creek arms may stain only if Friday/Sunday showers dump locally.
Park / recreation failover USACE Blue Marsh / Dry Brooks	Live recreation notices · ramp hours Friday-morning Cast pull	Ramp openings and day-use hours at Dry Brooks and State Hill drive access. Check the live USACE Blue Marsh page for any temporary closures before you tow.

Failover before launch: USGS 01470870 / 01470779 · USACE Baltimore / Blue Marsh recreation info. Dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Soft current → bite only when release is visible near the dam; otherwise treat as still-water wood and weed.

DRY BROOKS / DAM NEIGHBORHOOD

Fish soft seams, secondary points, and the first major wood banks upstream of restricted water. Keep a safe buffer from the dam face. Largemouth traffic often shows where bait stacks along wood — especially Saturday morning after the cool night.

STATE HILL · CREEK ARMS

State Hill and the Tulpehocken arms fish a classic early-fall pattern: bait in the backs early, then sliding toward channel swings as the sun climbs. Friday's heat favors shade wood after 10 AM; Saturday's sun favors weed transitions; Sunday's clouds can keep fish shallower longer.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Friday's warm dawn still wants a light shell for the first hour; PFDs on any wet rock after showers; dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Start on the **Dry Brooks** day-use shoreline before picnic traffic, then rotate to **State Hill** public banks where wood and weed meet walking water.

Saturday's cool, dry morning is the banker's best window — walk a shadowed bank with a buzzbait or spinnerbait at first light, then slow a black/blue creature or Texas-rig along visible wood and dock edges once the sun climbs. Sunday's soft shower risk favors a spinnerbait along stained pockets if rain stays light.

KAYAK

Launch **Dry Brooks** or posted **State Hill** access for short paddles to wood points and cove swings without a long open-water crossing. On calm Saturday mornings, work the lee side with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -oz chatterbait or squarebill, then slide a small swimbait through bait showers if birds tip schools. Friday's west wind and Sunday's east breeze can chop the main lake — hug protected arms and give big boats the Dry Brooks lanes after late morning.

BOAT

Dry Brooks and **State Hill** put you closest to classic fall transitions: main-lake points, wood, and weed edges where bait pulls bass. Idle the first hour on a topwater or waking bait along slicks — especially Saturday after the cool night — then slide to 6–14 ft on wood transitions with a jig or Texas-rig as the sun climbs. Confirm USGS pool if levels matter to your ramp; 290.16 ft fishes normal. Weekend recreational traffic builds by late morning even without a trail blast-off, so protect the dawn idle.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (bone / chrome) over slicks

Buzzbait or plover on shaded banks

Popper at first light in calm pockets

MID

$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ oz chatterbait (wind / stain)

Spinnerbait (white/chart) under Sunday clouds

Squarebill along wood

3–4" swimbait on a jighead for bait schools

BOTTOM

Texas-rig creature in wood and docks

Football or hybrid jig (black/blue / green pumpkin)

Ned / soft stick on harder edges

Dropshot when fish suspend off points

Stain / clear match: Darker profiles in creek mud after local showers; translucent smoke, shad, and green-pumpkin on clearer main-lake wood. Tie colors to shad-class bait and crawfish first.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Blue Marsh. Cooler nights into the low 50s and Saturday's dry cool-down should keep **largemouth** honest around wood, docks, and weed edges, with **smallmouth** possible on harder points. Fish are not on a winter deep stack yet — treat this as morning-shallow, midday-slide, with Friday's heat compressing dawn and Sunday's clouds stretching shallow activity. Skip the spawn talk; that chapter is closed.

What's on the menu: Dated hatch reports for this exact window are thin. Most-likely forage this week is **shad-class baitfish and young panfish** wherever birds tip you off, with **crawfish** on harder edges once the sun climbs, and **bluegill** still around shallow wood and docks. Start on shad imitators; keep a craw-colored jig ready for transitions midday.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

HYBRID STRIPED BASS · MUSKIES

Blue Marsh mixed-bag traffic shows when bait balls tighten — keep a swimbait ready on main-lake points. Soft language only; confirm seasons and creel on the live PFBC page before you keep fish.

CRAPPIE · PANFISH

Crappie and panfish matter on brush and docks for mixed bags, especially low light Saturday dawn and Sunday's cloudy first hour. Same access rules as bass — legal bank and ramp water only.

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named Tri-State Bass Circuit, PA B.A.S.S. Nation, or PSBA trail event pulled for **Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4** on Blue Marsh. Expect normal weekend recreational traffic at Dry Brooks and State Hill — earlier launch still beats the picnic crowd by late morning Saturday.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): After Sunday's soft showers, NWS leans cooler and clearer early week (Monday high near the upper 60s, night in the low 40s) — classic October mornings if nights stay crisp. No named trail blast-off pulled on this water for the next weekend at Friday pull — confirm live calendars before you plan. Next **Cast:** Monday window Mon–Wed.

PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Ethanol-free stations near the Bernville / Leesport / Reading corridor (no pump prices).

Blue Marsh Outdoor — Blue Marsh Outdoor, 5097 Bernville Rd, Bernville, PA (Ethanol-free UNBRANDED 90)

Wawa — Wawa, 910 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA (Ethanol-free WAWA 89)

Wawa — Wawa, 910 W Leesport Rd, Reading, PA (Ethanol-free WAWA 90)

Wawa — Wawa, 3337 Penn Ave, West Lawn, PA (Ethanol-free WAWA 89)

Stations reused from Pure-Gas.org PA list for this water. Listings move — verify literal **E0** / ethanol-free grade at the pump. No pump prices in this **Cast**.

Sources: NWS Mount Holly (PHI) grid PHI 17,94 for the southern Pennsylvania corridor covering Blue Marsh · METAR KRDG / KMDT · USGS 01470870 pool, 01470779 Tulpehocken · USACE Baltimore / Blue Marsh · Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free directory · PFBC (live regs). Confirm pool and the forecast before launch.

Freshwater Cast · Friday **Cast** · Blue Marsh Lake · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2 ~8:00 AM ET