Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for C.J. Strike Reservoir area

C.J. Strike Reservoir

Idaho

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Mountain Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

4/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 20 mph · unsafe chop	− Rain up to ~96%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **47–53°F**, lows **30–37°F**, rain chance up to **~96%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

53° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy then Scattered Rain Showers
WIND	ENE 0–10 mph
RAIN	~96%
SUN	7:37 AM / 5:19 PM

Frame: Wet day — fish the front side of the rain; slow down and stay close to cover after it passes.

TUESDAY NOV 17

47° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Scattered Rain Showers then Partly Sunny
WIND	WNW 10–20 mph
RAIN	~25%
SUN	7:38 AM / 5:18 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

47° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Chance Rain And Snow Showers
WIND	ESE 8–20 mph
RAIN	~64%
SUN	7:39 AM / 5:17 PM

Frame: Wet day — fish the front side of the rain; slow down and stay close to cover after it passes.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: ENE → WNW → ESE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:37 AM MST) → ~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

NATURAL FORAGE

Baitfish gather along riprap at first light after cool nights, so do not sleep through dawn. What's on the menu: Shad, small baitfish and crawfish are the main forage along the rock, with deeper holes holding catfish forage.

ALSO BITING

Smallmouth bass — primary; rock, riprap and points. Channel catfish — deeper holes; cut bait.

PRESSURE

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

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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by Idaho Power for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 — check the operator page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
C.J. Strike Dam	No generation schedule posted by Idaho Power for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18	Idaho Power
Confirm	Idaho Fish and Game fishing rules	idfg.idaho.gov
Permit / regs	Regulations: check current Idaho Fish and Game rules before keeping fish, and follow sturgeon catch-and-release rules.	
Clarity	Water clarity / depth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Bank anglers can fish riprap and rock from signed access at the C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area and other public Idaho Power sites. Start early with a spinnerbait or a tube along the rocks, then switch to a jig as the sun climbs.

KAYAK

Morning is the calmest paddle window with a light north breeze. Launch at a WMA ramp and work riprap and points with a tube or a Ned rig. Wear a PFD every minute, carry extra water and turn back early if the desert wind rises.

BOAT

Strike fishes like an open, stained desert reservoir. At first light, run riprap and points from the main WMA ramps toward the Bruneau arm with a spinnerbait, crankbait or tube. As the sun climbs, work deeper rock and channel edges with a jig or a drop-shot, and anchor for cats with cut bait.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait along riprap at dawn. Popper on calm pockets. Buzzbait on shaded banks.

MID

Spinnerbait or crankbait on rock. Small swimbait on points. Tube on riprap.

BOTTOM

Jig or football head on deeper rock. Drop-shot on channel edges. Cut bait for channel cats.