FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Mille Lacs area

Mille Lacs

Minnesota
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Walleye

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 25 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~7%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **50–54°F**, lows **38–43°F**, rain chance up to **~7%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

50° F high

LOW	38°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 10–20 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:16 AM / 4:41 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

51° F high

LOW	42°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:18 AM / 4:40 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

54° F high

LOW	43°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 15–25 mph
RAIN	~7%
SUN	7:19 AM / 4:39 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:16 AM CST) → ~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 **Walleye plan: Fish rock and gravel 10-25 ft at low light; jig and minnow or troll stickbaits, moderate.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Walleye are in the fall transition — following bait into creeks and onto flats as water cools.

Basis: estimated water ~48°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response), adjusted by 1 nearby USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

Yellow perch and young tullibee (cisco) are the backbone of the Mille Lacs menu, and you will see both on your graph around the reefs and the edges of the basin. Shiners school on shoreline rock in fall, which is why a minnow crankbait at dusk works.

ALSO BITING

Smallmouth bass. Mille Lacs is one of the best smallmouth lakes in the country.

PRESSURE

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

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
Permit / regs	Walleye rules on Mille Lacs change during the year, so check the Minnesota DNR's current Mille Lacs regulations before you keep a fish.	
Clarity	Run to the windward side of the mid-lake rock and fish where the waves have stained the water: a jig and minnow, a live-bait rig with a leech, or a crankbait trolled along the break all work.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Father Hennepin State Park near Isle has fishing piers and rocky shoreline on the south end of the lake, and it is the best walk-up spot on Mille Lacs this week. Fish a slip bobber with a leech or a lively minnow from the pier and the rocks at sunset, when walleye cruise shallow to feed, and keep it just off the bottom.

KAYAK

Launch at Father Hennepin State Park or the Wahkon Bay access and stay inside Isle Bay and along the south-shore rock, where you can drift a jig over gravel in 6 to 12 feet without crossing open water. Wear your PFD, carry a light for dusk, and head in early, because Mille Lacs wind often builds in the afternoon.

BOAT

Launch at the Garrison public access for the west-side reefs or at Father Hennepin State Park for the south end. Run to the windward side of the mid-lake rock and fish where the waves have stained the water: a jig and minnow, a live-bait rig with a leech, or a crankbait trolled along the break all work.

LURE BOX

TOP

Shallow-diving minnow crankbait cast over rock at dusk for walleye (perch or firetiger). Walking bait or small popper for smallmouth on calm rock flats at first light. Glide or bucktail along cabbage edges if you are after muskie.

MID

Jig and paddle-tail swimbait (gold, perch, or white) worked across reef edges in the wind. Spinner rig or bottom-bouncer harness trolled along the break. Blade bait or jigging rap on deeper rock when the sun is high.

BOTTOM

Live-bait rig with a leech or redtail chub on gravel and rock. Slip bobber with a leech set just off the bottom from the piers at sunset. Jig and minnow (1/8 to 3/8 oz, heavier in wind) on the first drop.