FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Otter Tail Lake area

Otter Tail Lake

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

8/10 — Strong odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 18 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~8%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **52–55°F**, lows **39–43°F**, rain chance up to **~8%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

53° F high

LOW	39°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	SSW 9–14 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:25 AM / 4:49 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

52° F high

LOW	43°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 12–17 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:26 AM / 4:48 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

55° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 15–18 mph
RAIN	~8%
SUN	7:28 AM / 4:47 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 (7:25 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 ~49°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

You will see bait on your graph around bars, weed edges, and the first break, and diving gulls often mark the best schools.

ALSO BITING

Yellow perch. A fun bank and dock target with small jigs or a piece of crawler when the walleye window is closed Work the same shade and edges you would for walleye, just scale down the bait and slow the retrieve.

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	Check current Minnesota DNR regulations for Otter Tail Lake before you keep a fish.	
Clarity	No USGS lake-surface reading for Otter Tail Lake in this Cast window; wind and clarity set the day.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Posted Minnesota DNR and local public shoreline around Otter Tail Lake is the walk-up play this week. Arrive at first light or the last hour of daylight and fish a slip bobber with a leech or a weightless stickbait along shade, riprap, and any breeze-blown bank that touches deeper water within a step or two.

KAYAK

Launch at a posted public trailer or carry-in access on Otter Tail Lake and paddle the lee shoreline and protected pockets at first light. A spinnerbait or jig covers water early along windward edges; slow down with a soft plastic or live-bait presentation as fish slide deeper by midday.

BOAT

Launch at a posted public boat access for Otter Tail Lake. Work windward breaks, points, and the first drop early with a jig, crankbait, or live-bait rig, then return at dusk to shallow rock, gravel, or weed edges when walleye move up to feed.

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. Spinnerbait along cabbage edges if a breeze is on the bank.

MID

Jig and paddle-tail swimbait (gold, perch, or white) worked across bar edges in the wind. Spinner 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 on gravel and rock. Slip bobber with a leech set just off the bottom from the bank at sunset. Jig and minnow (1/8 to 3/8 oz, heavier in wind) on the first drop.