FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for St. Croix area

St. Croix

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

5/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~18%)	− Winter	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **53–57°F**, lows **39–46°F**, rain chance up to **~18%**. 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 5–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:10 AM / 4:41 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

55° F high

LOW	43°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 5–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:11 AM / 4:40 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

57° F high

LOW	46°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 10–15 mph
RAIN	~18%
SUN	7:12 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 (7:10 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

WINTER **Smallmouth plan: Fish 20-40 ft rock and steep breaks; hair jig, blade bait or float-n-fly, very slow.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the winter pattern — slow metabolism, holding deep and tight to structure.

Basis: estimated water ~44°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

Crayfish and shiners are the main forage for smallmouth on the St. Croix, with young gizzard shad and other baitfish in the slower water.

Threadfin shad die-off band (below 45°F) — dying shad drift below dams and into deep creek channels.

ALSO BITING

Walleye · sauger. Walleye and sauger set up on the deeper channel edges of Lake St.

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 the DNR's current border-water license and size-limit rules before you keep fish, and report any invasive carp you catch.	
Clarity	Calm, bright mornings make smallmouth wary in clear water; downsize and use lighter line.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Lowell Park in downtown Stillwater has shore fishing on both sides of the historic lift bridge, and the Boom Site wayside on Highway 95 north of town gives rock and current water. Down near the confluence, Point Douglas County Park has shore-fishing structures at its east end under the Highway 10 bridge.

KAYAK

Kayaks fit the river above Stillwater on calm mornings. Carry in at the Boom Site on Highway 95 and fish rock banks and current seams along the shore with a tube or small swimbait, staying out of the main boat lane. Croix, the St.

BOAT

Launch at the St. Croix Crossing access in Oak Park Heights, a free state ramp off Highway 95 just north of Highway 36, or at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park south of Afton, which has a park entry fee but no launch fee.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait or popper on calm rock flats at first light for smallmouth. Small prop bait along riprap and points early. Wake bait over sand flats on calm evenings for smallmouth.

MID

Suspending jerkbait on rock points and breaks for smallmouth. Paddle-tail swimbait on a jig head along current seams. Crankbait trolled along the channel edges for walleye and sauger.

BOTTOM

Tube or ned rig on rock and gravel breaks for smallmouth. Jig and minnow (1/4 to 3/8 oz) on deeper channel edges. Drop-shot on deeper rock when the sun is high.