FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Vermilion area

Vermilion

Minnesota

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

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 15 mph · open-water chop	~ Rain up to ~31%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **48–49°F**, lows **37–41°F**, rain chance up to **~31%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

48° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 10–15 mph
RAIN	~2%
SUN	7:16 AM / 4:31 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

49° F high

LOW	41°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 5–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:17 AM / 4:29 PM

Frame: Stable day — first-light moving bait, then slow down around shade and cover once the sun is up.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

49° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	S 10–15 mph
RAIN	~31%
SUN	7:19 AM / 4:28 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SW → 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 ~45°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

Tullibee (cisco), yellow perch and white suckers are the main forage for muskie and walleye on Vermilion, and crayfish keep smallmouth on the rock. As the water cools, tullibee move toward rocky reefs ahead of their late-fall spawn, and muskie follow them.

ALSO BITING

Smallmouth bass. Vermilion has a strong smallmouth fishery.

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	Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park has a fishing pier at its Armstrong Bay day-use area, and McKinley Park in Soudan has docks near the launch.	
Clarity	Clear water, rock reefs and deep edges for muskie, walleye and smallmouth.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Hoodoo Point in Tower has a fishing dock beside the launch and rocky shoreline on its south side, a good walk-up walleye spot at dusk. Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park has a fishing pier at its Armstrong Bay day-use area, and McKinley Park in Soudan has docks near the launch.

KAYAK

Kayaks fit the protected bays and island shorelines of the east basin on the light wind, and in sheltered water morning. Launch at McKinley Park or Hoodoo Point and work rocky points and weed edges close to shore for walleye and smallmouth with a jig.

BOAT

Launch at Hoodoo Point, McKinley Park or the state park's Cable Bay access for the east basin; the DNR's Moccasin Point access reaches other parts of the lake. For muskie, cast big rubber baits, bucktails and gliders on windward reefs and points next to deep water, and figure-eight every cast.

LURE BOX

TOP

Large topwater or prop bait for muskie on calm, warm afternoons over rock. Shallow minnow crankbait cast on reef tops at dusk for walleye (perch or firetiger). Walking bait for smallmouth on calm rock at first light.

MID

Double-blade bucktail burned over reef tops and weed edges for muskie. Large soft-plastic swimbait or glide bait on windward points. Jig and paddle-tail swimbait for walleye on reef edges.

BOTTOM

Jig and minnow (1/4 to 3/8 oz) on the first drop off the rock. Live-bait rig with a leech or redtail chub on gravel. Quick-strike rig with a sucker for muskie as the water keeps cooling.