Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Frances area

Lake Frances

Montana
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Mountain Time · Walleye

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

5/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 18°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 6–14 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~98%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **34–52°F**, lows **24–34°F**, rain chance up to **~98%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

52° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Slight Chance Light Rain
WIND	WSW 6 mph
RAIN	~63%
SUN	7:37 AM / 4:49 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

37° F high

LOW	26°F
SKY	Rain And Snow
WIND	NNW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~98%
SUN	7:39 AM / 4:48 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

34° F high

LOW	24°F
SKY	Slight Chance Light Snow then Partly Sunny
WIND	NW 5–14 mph
RAIN	~17%
SUN	7:40 AM / 4:47 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: WSW → NNW → NW · 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 **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); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending rising

NATURAL FORAGE

Natural perch, shad, and white finishes cover most sunny scenarios.

ALSO BITING

Northern pike / muskie where present. Weeds and creek mouths early.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Confirm length limits and seasons on the live state regulations page before you keep fish.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Valier's public shoreline near the Lake Street ramp is the bank play on Frances this week. Dawn-jig along Lake Street rock for walleye, then ease toward adjacent public banks as glare builds. This compact irrigation lake fishes small — quiet footsteps and longer pauses beat constant casting once the sun is high.

KAYAK

Launch at the Lake Street public ramp and stay on the Valier shoreline circuit rather than long open-water crossings. Work near-ramp transitions early for walleye, then slide to the next public point when bait moves.

BOAT

Idle out of Lake Street at first light, graph the near-shore break around Valier, then make short hops to the next marked point rather than circling the whole basin. Walleye on Frances often stay closer to town banks on sunny weekdays — don't overcomplicate the run.

LURE BOX

TOP

Shallow cranks on riprap dawn. Walking baits if bait is high. Small swimbaits over points.

MID

Jig + minnow / soft plastic. Blade baits on seams. Moderate cranks on breaks.

BOTTOM

Crawler harness / bottom bouncer. Heavier jigs on current. Ned or drop-shot under high sun.