Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Nelson area

Nelson

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 · 14°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 2–14 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~84%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **37–51°F**, lows **24–31°F**, rain chance up to **~84%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

51° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	ENE 2 mph
RAIN	~2%
SUN	7:19 AM / 4:29 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

50° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Cloudy
WIND	NNE 3–9 mph
RAIN	~84%
SUN	7:20 AM / 4:28 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

37° F high

LOW	24°F
SKY	Rain And Snow
WIND	NNW 9–14 mph
RAIN	~84%
SUN	7:22 AM / 4:27 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: ENE → NNE → NNW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:19 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 falling

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.	
Clarity	Water color and level can shift with Milk River system management — fish what you see.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Nelson SRA shoreline and legal public banks near the concrete ramp are the Malta-side walk-ins this week. Dawn-jig the concrete-ramp rock for walleye, then walk the SRA bank as light spreads across this irrigation pool. Water color and level can shift with Milk River system management — fish what you see.

KAYAK

Launch at the Nelson SRA concrete ramp and fish the nearest protected shoreline before crossing open water. Hug ramp transitions early for walleye, then point-hop only if the breeze stays light. Nelson's open shape rewards a drift sock and a conservative paddle plan — PFD , turn back early if whitecaps show.

BOAT

Idle off the SRA concrete ramp at dawn, graph the first points and channel edges for bait, then fan windward breaks as the sun climbs. Walleye here often relate to whatever depth the irrigation pool is holding — don't assume last month's waypoints.

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.