Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Merritt area

Merritt

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 25 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **55–61°F**, lows **31–41°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

59° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:36 AM / 4:20 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	41°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 20–25 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:37 AM / 4:19 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

61° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	WSW 15–25 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:38 AM / 4:18 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SSW → S → WSW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:36 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 ~52°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	Confirm SRA ramp congestion before you trailer, idle past Cedar Bay bank anglers, and make short hops rather than long runs when clarity is high and fish get picky.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Cedar Bay SRA shoreline and legal public banks near the ramp are the Valentine-side walk-ins this week. Dawn-jig Cedar Bay rock for walleye, then slide along SRA banks as Central Time light spreads — Merritt runs on CT. Sandhills mornings start cold; pack layers and a headlamp for the walk-.

KAYAK

Launch at Cedar Bay SRA and fish the bay's protected water before crossing into the wider Merritt pool. Hug bay transitions early for walleye, then point-hop if the breeze stays light. Merritt's clear sunny days reward quiet paddling — PFD , drift sock ready, soft soles when you beach.

BOAT

Idle out of Cedar Bay at first light, graph bay-mouth breaks for bait, then fan main-lake points as the sun climbs over the Sandhills. Walleye often want a slower presentation under bright CT skies — keep a jig and a light crank both rigged.

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.