FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Ashtabula area

Lake Ashtabula

North Dakota

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

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 17 mph · open-water chop	~ Rain up to ~42%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **52–55°F**, lows **36–39°F**, rain chance up to **~42%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

55° F high

LOW	38°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 12 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:36 AM / 4:56 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

52° F high

LOW	39°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	SSE 9–17 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:38 AM / 4:55 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

54° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	SSE 8–16 mph
RAIN	~42%
SUN	7:39 AM / 4:54 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:36 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 **Smallmouth plan: Go subsurface and a notch slower: edges of drop-offs, rocky points and bluff ends between the fall flats and the 20-40 ft winter depth; jerkbait with pauses, small jig or hula grub on the bottom, blade bait ripped off the bottom on points.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the late fall transition — water in the low-to-mid 50s, so they are staging on drop-off edges, points and bends between their summer spots and the deep wintering holes.

Basis: estimated water ~46°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

The best guess is crawfish on rock and riprap, young-of-year baitfish and small yellow perch along points.

ALSO BITING

Walleye · northern pike. Game and Fish rates both as abundant.

PRESSURE

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

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE MVP, the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 — check the operator page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Baldhill Dam at Lake Ashtabula	**No generation schedule posted by USACE MVP for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18** Observed: pool 1,264.87 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 206 cfs (Mon 4:00 AM CT)	USACE MVP
LAKE ASHTABULA AT BALDHILL DAM, ND	**No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18** Observed: pool 1,264.87 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT)	the operator
Permit / regs	The Corps camping season normally ends Sept 30, so check which gates and day-use areas are open before you drive.	
Clarity	Color match: Clarity has not been reported.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Game and Fish lists floating fishing piers at Eggerts Landing, Ashtabula Crossing, Sundstroms Landing and Sibley Crossing, and the Corps maintains shore access around its recreation areas, including Mel Rieman Recreation Area. Riprap along the crossings and the dam area is the best smallmouth rock you can reach from shore.

KAYAK

Ashtabula is long and narrow, which makes it good kayak water on calm days. Launch at Sundstroms Landing or Eggerts Landing on the lower lake and work the rocky shoreline and points within easy reach of the ramp. Wear your PFD and carry a whistle, and paddle into the wind first so the wind helps you home.

BOAT

Launch at Mel Rieman Recreation Area, Ashtabula Crossing or Eggerts Landing. Ashtabula Crossing sits midlake and gives you both directions to run. Hop rock points, bridge riprap and gravel humps in 8–20 feet with a tube or football jig, and use your electronics to find bait schools with smallmouth nearby.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small walking bait over shallow rock mornings. Popper along riprap when smallmouth push bait. Prop bait in calm coves.

MID

Suspending jerkbait on rock edges as the water cools. Paddle-tail swimbait (perch, shad) over points. Shallow crankbait (crawfish) on wind-blown rock.

BOTTOM

Tube (green pumpkin, brown) dragged over rock and gravel. Ned rig or drop-shot on calm, bright days. Jig and minnow for the walleye mix on the same breaks.