FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Bowman-Haley area

Bowman-Haley

North Dakota

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

3/10

Poor odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 16°F swing	+ No lightning	− Up to 35 mph · unsafe chop	~ Rain up to ~26%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **44–60°F**, lows **24–31°F**, rain chance up to **~26%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

60° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 1–8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:54 AM / 4:20 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

55° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SE 2–10 mph
RAIN	~6%
SUN	6:55 AM / 4:19 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

44° F high

LOW	24°F
SKY	Chance Light Rain
WIND	SW 6–35 mph
RAIN	~26%
SUN	6:57 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: S → SE → SW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:54 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 **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 ~49°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

White bass roam in schools and herd baitfish onto points, especially at first light and in the evening.

ALSO BITING

Walleye · northern pike. Game and Fish lists a fair number of walleye up to 5 pounds and pike up to 10 pounds.

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 NWDM 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
Bowman-Haley Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 2,748.45 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 0 cfs (Mon 4:00 AM CT)	USACE NWDM
Permit / regs	Limits and regulations: check the current North Dakota Game and Fish fishing guide before you keep fish.	
Clarity	Color match: Clarity has not been reported.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Game and Fish notes public shore access around the entire lake, with several shore fishing spots and a recreation area with camping and picnic shelters near the dam. Start near the North Ramp, the West Side Ramp or the South Ramp, where parking is easy and rocky shoreline is close.

KAYAK

Launch at the North Ramp or West Side Ramp and work the rocky points and coves nearby rather than crossing the open lake. Wear your PFD and carry a whistle, and plan your route so any breeze helps you home. A Ned rig or drop-shot on rock catches smallmouth, and a small spoon covers white bass.

BOAT

Launch at the South Ramp, North Ramp or West Side Ramp, and check the depth at the end of the ramp before backing down, since the lake is six feet low. Stay in protected water and fish wind-sheltered points. Run the main-lake points and rock humps in 6–15 feet with a tube or football jig for smallmouth.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small walking bait or popper when white bass push bait at first light. Prop bait along calm shorelines morning. Long casts to surface swirls.

MID

Small spoon or blade bait (silver, white) for white bass. Suspending jerkbait on rocky points. Shallow crankbait on wind-blown rock.

BOTTOM

Tube or football jig (green pumpkin, brown) on rock. Ned rig or drop-shot on calm, bright days. Jig and minnow for walleye on breaks.