Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Darling area

Lake Darling

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

5/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 17°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 10–12 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~92%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **42–59°F**, lows **30–35°F**, rain chance up to **~92%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

59° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Partly Sunny
WIND	SW 6–12 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:55 AM / 5:06 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

49° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	NE 2–10 mph
RAIN	~4%
SUN	7:56 AM / 5:05 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

42° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy then Light Rain Likely
WIND	NE 7–12 mph
RAIN	~92%
SUN	7:58 AM / 5:04 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: SW → NE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:55 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

NATURAL FORAGE

The refuge lists many minnow species in its waters, so the best guess is minnows and young-of-year perch, with crawfish on the rock.

ALSO BITING

The main draw. Fish a jig and minnow or a slip-bobber with a leech from the dam's west end, the spillway or the Outlet Fishing Area in the last hour of light, and leave the refuge by 10 PM.

PRESSURE

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

response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE MVP 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
Lake Darling Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE MVP for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 1,596.16 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 297 cfs (Mon 4:15 AM CT)	USACE MVP
Permit / regs	Fishing boats are permitted on the refuge only from May 1 to Sept 30, from Highway 28 south to Lake Darling Dam, so the six ramps, including Grano Crossing, Greene Crossing, the West Landings and the Spillway Boat Ramp, are closed to fishing boats until next spring.	
Clarity	Color match: Clarity has not been reported.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The refuge allows bank fishing only at signed “Public Fishing Area” sites.

KAYAK

Paddle fishing is closed this week. The refuge allows kayak, canoe and float-tube fishing on Lake Darling only from May 1 to Sept 30, and the Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail on the Souris River follows the same season. So leave the kayak home or take it to a water off the refuge.

BOAT

Boats are not allowed on Lake Darling this week. Fishing boats are permitted on the refuge only from May 1 to Sept 30, from Highway 28 south to Lake Darling Dam, so the six ramps, including Grano Crossing, Greene Crossing, the West Landings and the Spillway Boat Ramp, are closed to fishing boats until next spring.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small popper along dam rock at first light on calm Walking bait from the west shore when bait shows on top. Slip-bobber with a leech at dusk for walleye.

MID

Suspending jerkbait along the dam and spillway rock. Paddle-tail swimbait (perch) from the crossings. Inline spinner or spoon for pike near weed edges.

BOTTOM

Tube or small jig (green pumpkin, brown) on rock for smallmouth. Jig and minnow for walleye off the dam and at the outlet. Small jig tipped with a minnow for perch near the crossings.