Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Jamestown Reservoir area

Jamestown Reservoir

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST — Fair odds

7 /10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	~ Rain up to ~40%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **52–56°F**, lows **36–38°F**, rain chance up to **~40%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

56° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 8 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:39 AM / 4:59 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	38°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	S 8–15 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:40 AM / 4:58 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

52° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 7–13 mph
RAIN	~40%
SUN	7:42 AM / 4:57 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:39 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 ~47°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

The best guess is young-of-year baitfish and minnows around brush and weeds, plus small yellow perch along points.

ALSO BITING

Crappie · walleye. Crappie are the best bet for numbers.

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
Jamestown Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 1,429.82 ft (Mon 3:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 60 cfs (Mon 3:00 AM CT)	USACE NWDM
Permit / regs	The county also has a pier and dock at the Jim River Bay Area on the east side, and shore fishing on the day-use island near Lakeside Campground.	
Clarity	Color match: Clarity has not been reported.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The Stutsman County Park Board runs the reservoir, and Game and Fish lists floating fishing piers at the Marina Area, Pelican Point and Five Mile Corner Landing. The county also has a pier and dock at the Jim River Bay Area on the east side, and shore fishing on the day-use island near Lakeside Campground.

KAYAK

Jamestown is a friendly size for a kayak, and its coves and bays give you shelter. Launch at Five Mile Corner Landing or Boat Club Bay and work brushy shorelines and coves close to the ramp. Wear your PFD and carry a whistle.

BOAT

Launch at the three-ramp Marina Area, Pelican Point or West Landing. Graph the edges of flooded brush and the first drop-offs in 8–15 feet for crappie schools, then hover over them with a small jig or minnow.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small popper along flooded grass for pike and the odd bass. Walking bait over shallow points on calm morning. Slip-bobber with a minnow just over brush for crappie.

MID

Small tube jig or curly-tail grub (white, chartreuse) for suspended crappie. Shallow crankbait trolled along breaks for walleye. Inline spinner or spinnerbait along weed edges for pike.

BOTTOM

Jig and minnow off points and channel breaks. Spinner rig with a crawler along drop-offs. Tube or Ned rig on rock for smallmouth.