FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Mcdowell Dam area

Mcdowell Dam

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

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	+ 6–12 mph usable ripple	~ Rain up to ~47%	– Winter	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **50–56°F**, lows **33–36°F**, rain chance up to **~47%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

56° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Areas Of Fog then Partly Sunny
WIND	S 2–6 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:46 AM / 5:07 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

54° F high

LOW	35°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	SE 6–12 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:48 AM / 5:06 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

50° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 6–10 mph
RAIN	~47%
SUN	7:49 AM / 5:05 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:46 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

WINTER **Largemouth plan: Fish 15-30 ft bluff ends and channel swings; slow-roll a jig, blade bait or suspending jerkbait with long pauses.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Largemouth are in the winter pattern — slow metabolism, holding deep and tight to structure.

Basis: estimated water ~47°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response), adjusted by 1 nearby USGS lake gauge; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

No dated forage report covers this exact window, so treat this as the seasonal most-likely menu and let your graph

ALSO BITING

Panfish and northern pike often share McDowell with bass. Confirm NDGF and Bismarck Parks rules before you keep fish.

PRESSURE

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

WATER BOARD — LAKE CHEAT SHEET

FIXED Natural / small-impoundment water — no generation table. Check access rules and level notes with the managing agency before you go.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Permit / regs	Regs: Confirm length limits, creel limits, and any special rules on the live North Dakota Game and Fish freshwater page before you keep fish.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start from the NDGF-marked public boat ramp on McDowell Dam (Burleigh Co. Bismarck Parks recreation area; electric motors typical) and fish public shoreline within walking distance of the ramp lot — not the launch lanes themselves.

KAYAK

Launch at the NDGF-marked public boat ramp on McDowell Dam (Burleigh Co. Bismarck Parks recreation area; electric motors typical), then stay in the near-shore rock and cove circuit so you are not fighting open-water whitecaps all day.

BOAT

Trailer in at the NDGF-marked public boat ramp on McDowell Dam (Burleigh Co. Bismarck Parks recreation area; electric motors typical) and idle out until you are clear of the ramp pocket. Run lee rock and points at first light with a squarebill, spinnerbait, or walking bait, then shift to windward structure once the breeze eases.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (shad) for schooling fish on calm edges. Buzzbait along lee weed and riprap in the chop. Popper in quiet early-morning cove shade.

MID

Squarebill (shad or chartreuse) on rock and riprap. 3–4" swimbait on a light jighead. White or chartreuse spinnerbait on breezy banks.

BOTTOM

Ned rig or shaky head on rock points. Green-pumpkin jig along riprap and wood. Texas-rigged stick worm in quieter pockets.