FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Nelson area

Nelson

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

3/10

Poor odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 13°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 6–10 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~56%	− Winter	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **46–59°F**, lows **30–34°F**, rain chance up to **~56%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

59° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Partly Sunny
WIND	S 2–6 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:49 AM / 5:09 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

53° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	SE 3–10 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:51 AM / 5:08 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

46° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Light Rain
WIND	S 2–8 mph
RAIN	~56%
SUN	7:52 AM / 5:06 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: S → SE · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:49 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

Walleye and northern pike often share Nelson Lake with bass as nights cool — a jig or spinnerbait covers both when the bass bite pauses. Yellow perch can school on nearby rock and flats.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by 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
Nelson Lake Dam	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: observed flow at USGS 06342260 (Square Butte Creek Below Center, Nd) 1 cfs (Mon 3:15 AM CT)	the operator
Permit / regs	Confirm length limits, creel limits, and any special rules on the live NDGF fishing page before you keep fish.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start from the NDGF public boat ramps on Nelson Lake (Oliver Co.) and fish public shoreline within walking distance of the ramp lot — not the launch lanes themselves.

KAYAK

Launch at the NDGF public boat ramps on Nelson Lake (Oliver Co.), then stay in the near-shore rock and cove circuit so you are not fighting open-water whitecaps all day. Skip or swim a soft plastic along riprap, rock, and protected cove edges, and use the northwest breeze to drift the windward bank where bait lines up.

BOAT

Trailer in at the NDGF public boat ramps on Nelson Lake (Oliver Co.) 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 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.