Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Oahe (ND) area

Lake Oahe (ND)

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

9/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	+ 7–13 mph usable ripple	~ Rain up to ~42%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **50–56°F**, lows **34–38°F**, rain chance up to **~42%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

56° F high

LOW	38°F
SKY	Areas Of Fog then Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 2–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:46 AM / 5:08 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	37°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	SE 6–13 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:47 AM / 5:07 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	34°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	SW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~42%
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.

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 (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

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

NATURAL FORAGE

North Dakota Game and Fish notes that forage for walleye on upper Oahe has been in short supply, with many small walleye in poor condition, so fish that find food are feeding hard.

ALSO BITING

Walleye · sauger. The lake's main draw.

PRESSURE

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

response), adjusted by 1 nearby USGS lake gauge; 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 Omaha District 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
Oahe Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE Omaha District for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 1,592.83 ft (Mon 3:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 0 cfs (Mon 3:00 AM CT)	USACE Omaha District
Permit / regs	Limits and regulations: check the current North Dakota Game and Fish fishing guide before you keep fish.	
Clarity	Ned rig or drop-shot on calm, bright Color match: Clarity has not been reported.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

North Dakota Game and Fish lists walk-in shore access at Fort Rice, Hazelton, MacLean Bottoms, Eckroth Bottoms and Beaver Bay, where several trails lead to the shoreline around the bay.

KAYAK

Paddle the mornings, when the wind drops to single digits. Hazelton and North Beaver Bay are listed as usable launches, and Beaver Bay itself gives you a sheltered shoreline to work even though its main ramps are listed unusable.

BOAT

Launch at Hazelton, the Fort Rice low-water ramp or Prairie Knights Marina, and check depth at the end of the ramp before you back down. Idle out, because the old river channel wanders and new bars sit inches under the surface.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small walking bait over shallow rock on calm mornings. Popper tight to riprap when smallmouth chase bait at first light. Prop bait along windblown banks afternoon.

MID

Paddle-tail swimbait on a light head (smelt, perch or white) along points. Suspending jerkbait on rock edges as nights cool into the low 40s. Shad-style crankbait trolled along channel breaks for walleye at dusk.

BOTTOM

Tube or football jig (green pumpkin, brown) on rock and gravel. Jig and minnow, or a bottom bouncer with a crawler harness, on river bends. Ned rig or drop-shot on calm, bright Color match: Clarity has not been reported.