FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Sakakawea area

Lake Sakakawea

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 · 15°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 7–13 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~70%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **42–57°F**, lows **29–36°F**, rain chance up to **~70%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

57° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Areas Of Fog then Partly Sunny
WIND	S 3–7 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:56 AM / 5:11 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

51° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	E 5–13 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	7:57 AM / 5:10 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	29°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Light Rain
WIND	N 13 mph
RAIN	~70%
SUN	7:59 AM / 5:09 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 → E → N · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:56 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

The best guess is rainbow smelt and young-of-year baitfish in open water, yellow perch around the bays, and crawfish on rock and riprap.

ALSO BITING

Walleye · sauger. Fall walleye are the lake's main draw this time of year.

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 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
Garrison Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE Omaha District for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 1,823.82 ft (Mon 3:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 12,611 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	Clarity has not been reported lake-wide, so judge it at the ramp.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start at Fort Stevenson State Park near Garrison, where the riprap along the park shoreline and the marina breakwater give you rock you can reach from shore. Lake Sakakawea State Park near Pick City offers more riprap and points close to the dam end of the lake.

KAYAK

Save the open water , when the wind drops to single digits. Launch inside sheltered bays such as Beaver Bay, Steinke Bay or Parshall Bay, and work the rocky shoulders near the bay mouths without crossing open water. Wear your PFD and carry a whistle, and plan your route so the wind brings you home.

BOAT

Run out of Fort Stevenson, Beaver Bay or Steinke Bay and check ramp depth before you back down, since the low pool leaves some concrete short. Hold the calm side of the bays and hop rocky points with a football jig.

LURE BOX

TOP

Compact walking bait (bone or chrome) over rock flats on calm mornings. Popper in a protected bay when smallmouth push bait against the bank. Long casts to surface swirls when baitfish schools show on top.

MID

Paddle-tail swimbait on a light head (smelt or perch color) over points. Suspending jerkbait on rock transitions as the water cools. Shallow crankbait (crawfish or perch) on wind-blown points.

BOTTOM

Tube or football jig (green pumpkin or brown) dragged over crawfish rock. Ned rig or drop-shot when calm, sunny days make fish picky. Jig and minnow or a slip-bobber leech for the walleye mix.