FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Tschida / Heart Butte area

Lake Tschida / Heart Butte

North Dakota

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Mountain Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

4/10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 15°F swing	+ No lightning	− Up to 18 mph · open-water chop	~ Rain up to ~48%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **46–61°F**, lows **29–33°F**, rain chance up to **~48%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

61° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	S 1–6 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:50 AM / 4:12 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	31°F
SKY	Partly Sunny
WIND	SE 2–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:52 AM / 4:11 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	29°F
SKY	Chance Light Rain
WIND	S 1–18 mph
RAIN	~48%
SUN	6:53 AM / 4:10 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:50 AM MST) → ~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), adjusted by 1 nearby

NATURAL FORAGE

White bass roam in schools, chasing baitfish onto points at first light and in the evening.

ALSO BITING

Game and Fish reports a good number of walleye, with some up to 8 pounds. Channel catfish · northern pike.

PRESSURE

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

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 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
Heart Butte Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 2,057.88 ft (Mon 3:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 10 cfs (Mon 2:00 AM CT)	USACE NWDM
Permit / regs	Limits and regulations: check the current North Dakota Game and Fish fishing guide before you keep fish.	
Clarity	Bring calm water and bright sun, which can make fish wary in clear water, so finesse baits and low-light hours matter.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Game and Fish says you can park and fish the shore at any of Lake Tschida's 10 boat ramps. Good starts are North Shore, which has a fish cleaning station, Rimrock Rec Area and Crappie Creek. Floating fishing piers at Carson Sportsmens and Elgin Sportsmen give kids an easy spot.

KAYAK

This is a great kayak week. Launch at Crappie Creek or Schatz Creek and work the rocky points and creek-arm shorelines near the ramp. Wear your PFD and carry a whistle, even on calm days, because the water is cooling.

BOAT

Launch at the east or west ramp at Rimrock Rec Area, at North Shore or at Sled Creek, and check the depth at the end of the ramp before you back down. With the lake almost seven feet down, idle across shallow flats and points.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small walking bait or popper when white bass push bait at first light. Prop bait along wind-blown banks Long casts to surface swirls on calm.

MID

Small spoon or blade bait (silver, white) for white bass schools. Suspending jerkbait on rocky points as nights cool. Paddle-tail swimbait (shad, perch) along creek-channel edges.

BOTTOM

Tube or football jig (green pumpkin, brown) on rock. Ned rig or drop-shot on calm, bright days. Jig and minnow for walleye on channel breaks.