FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Lake Thompson area

Lake Thompson

South Dakota
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Walleye

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 25 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~3%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **54–62°F**, lows **37–44°F**, rain chance up to **~3%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

55° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	S 15–25 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:26 AM / 5:02 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

54° F high

LOW	44°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	S 20–25 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	7:27 AM / 5:01 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

62° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 20–25 mph
RAIN	~3%
SUN	7:29 AM / 5:00 PM

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:26 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 **Walleye plan: Fish rock and gravel 10-25 ft at low light; jig and minnow or troll stickbaits, moderate.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Walleye are in the fall transition — following bait into creeks and onto flats as water cools.

Basis: estimated water ~50°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

Dated forage reports for this exact window are thin. Most-likely forage is yellow perch, small baitfish, and invertebrates on weed edges, timber, and rock.

ALSO BITING

Yellow perch. Small jigs and minnows on deeper soft bottom and weed edges; steady through midday on calm days.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Confirm	SD GFP Fishing	gfp.sd.gov
Clarity	Clarity is unconfirmed for this window; start natural and add chartreuse after the wind stirs the shallows.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start at Lake Thompson Recreation Area on the southeast side, where the campground shoreline, fishing access, and rock offer room to cast.

KAYAK

Launch from Lake Thompson Recreation Area at first light, stay near protected shorelines, and work rock, timber, and weed edges with jigs and slip-bobbers. Thompson is big; stay close.

BOAT

Plan: first light–mid-morning CT on rock, points, and timber edges; midday graph deeper flats and bait. Launch options: the Lake Thompson Recreation Area ramps and public access along the Lake Preston shore and Oldham / De Smet corridor. Fish the windward north shore only if you are comfortable in big waves.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait or spinnerbait for pike along weed edges on the calm mornings; skip topwater on the wind.

MID

Shad-profile cranks and spinner harnesses across flats and windward rock; blade baits on deeper edges.

BOTTOM

Jig + minnow or plastic on rock and points; slip-bobber with leech or minnow near timber and weeds; small jigs for perch on soft bottom. Stain / clear match: Clarity unconfirmed. Natural / perch / gold on calm days; chartreuse, orange, or firetiger in the stirred-up water.