Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Columbia River — Hanford Reach area

Columbia River — Hanford Reach

Washington
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Pacific Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	+ 3–9 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~77%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **44–52°F**, lows **28–32°F**, rain chance up to **~77%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

52° F high

LOW	29°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 3 mph
RAIN	~2%
SUN	7:02 AM / 4:24 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

45° F high

LOW	28°F
SKY	Areas Of Fog
WIND	NE 3 mph
RAIN	~17%
SUN	7:03 AM / 4:23 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

44° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Rain And Snow
WIND	N 6–9 mph
RAIN	~77%
SUN	7:05 AM / 4:22 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: SW → NE → N · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING
- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:02 AM PST) → ~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 ~52°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a river (10-day

NATURAL FORAGE

Expect smallmouth on Vernita rock and riprap at dawn and dusk, then sliding into current seams and shade once the sun climbs. What's on the menu: Most-likely menu: crawfish on rock plus baitfish in seams.

ALSO BITING

15 — confirm before you keep fish, and stop salmon fishing after your adult limit.

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 steady

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by Grant County PUD 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
Priest Rapids Dam (Grant PUD)	**No generation schedule posted by Grant County PUD for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18** Observed: pool 483.26 ft (Mon 2:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 87,500 cfs (Mon 3:00 AM CT)	Grant County PUD
Permit / regs	Vernita Bridge is day-use; camping is not allowed.	
Clarity	Stain / clear match: No clarity report was posted.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

WDFW Vernita Bridge access offers WA-shore bank rock and riprap when footing is safe. Walk tubes and jigs along public rock at first light, then leave the water if salmon bank traffic stacks the best holes. The site is day-use only.

KAYAK

The Reach is fast, free-flowing big river, so skilled paddlers only. Launch the WDFW Vernita Bridge WA-shore ramp, hug the bank, and hop eddies below rock points instead of crossing the channel. Drop a tube on each eddy line; never anchor a kayak in current.

BOAT

Launch at WDFW Vernita Bridge (WA shore), idle out carefully, and fish rock and seams for smallmouth before the heat climbs. Expect salmon boats on popular holes — share the water or slide to quieter bass rock. Verify USGS flow and emergency Chinook rules before you go.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait on calm Vernita rock in the first hour. Popper on glassy seams early. Buzzbait on low-light banks.

MID

Spinnerbait in white or chartreuse on current seams. Soft jerk in baitfish colors where bait shows. Medium crank on rock transitions.

BOTTOM

Tube in green pumpkin or craw on WA-shore rock. Ned rig on riprap once the sun climbs. Jig in craw colors on deeper seams.