FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Door County / Sturgeon Bay area

Door County / Sturgeon Bay

Wisconsin

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central 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	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~3%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **49–53°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

49° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 8–13 mph
RAIN	~2%
SUN	6:47 AM / 4:20 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

53° F high

LOW	39°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SW 13 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:49 AM / 4:19 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

53° F high

LOW	44°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 9–15 mph
RAIN	~3%
SUN	6:50 AM / 4:18 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SW → SSW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:47 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 ~52°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: round gobies are the staple forage on Door rock, along with young yellow perch, small baitfish and crayfish on harder bottom. Match that with goby-colored tubes and drop-shot baits on the bottom and perch-pattern jerkbaits higher in the wat

ALSO BITING

Fall walleye start moving shallower around Sturgeon Bay at dusk and after dark; crankbaits along rock and weed edges at low light are the classic approach. Northern pike · yellow perch.

PRESSURE

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

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

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
Clarity	The sustained south-southwest wind is the event to plan around: it stacks water up the bay, and when it relaxes and swings west night, the canal can run noticeably at the walls and bridges for a while.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Start on the public canal walls near the Michigan Street and Oregon Street bridges in downtown Sturgeon Bay, where current seams and broken rock hold smallmouth within a long cast of shore.

KAYAK

Launch from Sawyer Park or the Potawatomi State Park ramp and stay inside Sawyer Harbor or Little Sturgeon Bay, where rock piles and weed edges are reachable without crossing open water. The light breeze is the best paddle day of the week; work too if you hug the west-northwest lee.

BOAT

Graph for bait and suspended fish on 15–25 feet of rock before you commit to a spot. Stay in Sawyer Harbor, Little Sturgeon Bay and the canal, fishing wind-blown rock inside the bays where the chop is manageable. Bridge abutments and canal seams hold fish any day you can safely idle the corridor.

LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (bone / chrome) on calm mornings. Small popper when fish push bait on the surface. Topwater fades fast once the chop arrives.

MID

Jerkbait (ghost / perch) on reef edges, long pauses in cold water. 3–4" swimbait matching gobies or young perch. Spinnerbait on wind-blown, stained rock.

BOTTOM

3–4" tube (green pumpkin / smoke) dragged along rock. Drop-shot or Ned rig (goby colors) for canal and pressured fish. Football jig (brown / green pumpkin) on outer reefs.