



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

San Carlos Lake: Tribal Permit Required, Storm Tuesday & Coolidge Dam Access

San Carlos Lake · Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 bank / kayak / boat

Highs ~89° → ~79° → ~80° (PSR) AZ clocks · monsoon-edge midweek

Release boards thin at evening pull Soft recreational · no named trail event pulled

San Carlos opens with a slight storm chance Monday, a wetter Tuesday, then a sunny Wednesday — and every trip still starts with a tribal recreation permit. Confirm access before you trailer, pack a rain shell for Tuesday, and let first light near the Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon corridor show you where the bait is.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Tucson (TWC) band pin for **south** paints this Friday–Sunday **Cast** window. At pull: Mostly clear, with a low around 61. South wind around 13 mph, with gusts as high as 23... Local clocks on this water run Arizona (no DST) — dawn windows shift with the angler.

FRIDAY OCT 2

83°F sunny · night ~61°F mostly clear.
Winds 14 to 23 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

SATURDAY OCT 3

84°F sunny · night ~61°F mostly clear.
Winds 17 to 25 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

SUNDAY OCT 4

85°F sunny · night ~64°F mostly clear.
Winds 16 to 30 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

Mostly fair pattern favors **dawn and dusk**.
Midday fish slide deeper or under shade unless current or wind moves bait. Period themes this pull: Mostly Clear / Sunny.

Day cards from the locked weather-band representative pin (south), pulled Friday morning for the Fri–Sun window. Check live dam boards before you idle over a seam.

Match the hatch on the first pass: shad-profile swimbaits and small crankbaits until you mark a bait ball, then slow down with a dropshot or Ned. If wind lays down midday, shade and docks become the high-percentage lane until the evening flurry.

● GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Coolidge Dam / San Carlos public release boards were **thin as a full Fri–Sun unit calendar at evening pull**. Confirm tribal recreation and dam notices before you idle near restricted structure.

Tribal recreation permit required — no permit, no trip.

REACH	FRI–SUN NOTE	FAILOVER
Main lake / Soda Canyon	Permit first. Storm runoff Tuesday can stain arms overnight. Elevation and launch status rule access.	San Carlos Apache Recreation & Wildlife · launch notices
Dam-end restricted water	Boards thin for unit timing. Fish legal water only outside posted lines.	Posted signs · tribal officers / notices

Soft bite notes with quiet releases: points, brush piles, and docks early; deeper brush and ledges mid-day. If water is moving at a dam face, look for bait stacked on the first legal current break — still outside every restricted line. Confirm ramp depth before you back a deep-V when elevation has been swinging.

Practical pre-launch check: elevation vs last trip, ramp status on park/USFS/NPS notices, and a glance at any release remark. Birds and bait on the graph beat an empty calendar.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Primary public bank access near the **Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon** corridor where posted — **tribal recreation permit required** (confirm live before you fish). Work riprap, brush, and shaded pockets at first light.

Shared: hydrate; storm cells can end a bank session fast. Stay out of dam-restricted zones. Afternoon open banks get hot even when highs sit in the low 80s.

Confirm permit and access hours before you lock the truck. Soft midweek pressure until sunny Wednesday — leave margin before recreation stacks popular access.

KAYAK

Launch at the public launch near Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon when open and permitted; confirm ramp and permit status before you strap the boat. Fish creek arms and brushy pockets away from main-lake chop after mid-morning.

Wind and storm cells Tuesday can end a kayak day early — have a bailout shoreline. PFD on every trip.

Wednesday's sunny reset favors longer point casts if Tuesday's rain dirties a few pockets overnight. Keep the permit on your person, not in the truck.

BOAT

Plan: **first light--~9 AM AZ** on points and brush; late morning docks and shade; mid-day deeper structure with electronics. Launch early near the San Carlos Lake public launch (Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon area) when open — **tribal recreation permit required**.

Soft current language only near legal dam-end structure. Soft midweek pressure under storms; sunny Wednesday traffic rises. Mark bait height at dawn before the first cast.

If cells build Monday–Tuesday, leave open fetches for protected arms. Confirm permit and ramp status the night before — do not assume walk-up access.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait in bone / sexy shad at dawn on main-lake points. Poppers over brush when the surface is slick Wednesday. Buzzbait black/blue along storm-stained edges after Monday–Tuesday cells.

MID

Spinnerbait white/chartreuse on windy points. Squarebill citrus on riprap and marina rock. Soft swimbait on a jighead for suspended fish over deeper brush when the sun is high.

BOTTOM

Green pumpkin creature Texas-rigged in brush. Brown/orange football jig on point drops. Carolina-rigged lizard when fish slide out after the morning flurry.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Late September at San Carlos is a post-summer / monsoon-edge transition. Largemouth still relate to points, brush, and flooded cover. Storm Tuesday can keep fish shallow; sunny Wednesday puts them on shade by late morning.

Spawning is long finished. You are fishing feed and comfort — storm edges and bait flushes early in the week, then cleaner-water point fishing by Wednesday if the basin gets a rinse and a reset. Handle fish quickly in warm afternoon water.

● FORAGE THIS WEEK

Most likely menu: threadfin shad on points and creek mouths, bluegill around brush. Hatch reports are thin. Match the graph and birds.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Crappie on brush. Catfish on deeper holes. Soft midweek pressure. Regs: tribal recreation rules + AZ where they apply (confirm live). Permit required.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: No named national trail event pulled for this water Mon Sep 28 – Wed Sep 30. Soft midweek recreational pressure under storm chances; sunny Wednesday traffic rises on accessible hubs. Regs confirm live before you keep fish.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): Clearer early October favors stronger dawn topwater. Permit and launch notices come before any lure talk. Next **Cast:** Friday window Fri–Sun.

● PERMIT-FIRST FISHING

Tribal recreation permit required — every tip on this card is secondary to legal access. Buy and carry the permit before you launch. If you cannot confirm current recreation rules and launch status, do not trailer. Officers and posted notices are the final word.

Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon is the hub for this product. Storm Tuesday is the wettest day of the window — fish protected pockets and keep a lightning plan. Monday's slight chance and Wednesday's sunny reset bookend the wet day with more standard dawn-to-shade patterns.

Clarity after Tuesday storms can change pocket to pocket. Check color at the launch, then match lure color to the water in front of you. Birds and bait on the graph beat a pre-tied favorite that does not match the stain.

Electronics tip: mark bait height on a known point at dawn before the first cast. Soft midweek pressure is real when access rules keep casual traffic down — use that by fishing thoroughly instead of running every bank.

Respect is part of the craft here. Pack out trash, give other permitted anglers room, and treat dam-restricted water as closed without debate. A good San Carlos morning starts with the permit and ends with the lake left cleaner than you found it.

● ACCESS-AND-BITE QUICK HITS

Once the permit is settled, fish San Carlos like a big desert reservoir with less traffic than the Valley chain. Pick a point or brush line and work it with a walking bait then a creature before making a long run. Soft midweek pressure rewards thorough water more than a highlight-reel idle.

Tuesday's storms can leave a stain mosaic Wednesday morning — the pocket that was dirty at the launch may be clean a mile away. Recheck color when you relocate, and retie color to match. That single habit saves more blanks than any secret lure.

Pure-Gas.org E0 · this water

Closest Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free stations / corridor notes for this water (saved listing — stations only; listings can change; verify E0 grade at the pump if grade matters to you):

- Globe / Peridot corridor (verify E0) — US-70 approaches · ~approach Confirm listings on Pure-Gas
- Pure-Gas.org Arizona directory — <https://www.pure-gas.org/> · state list Call ahead

Station list from Pure-Gas.org for this water. No pump prices on this card. Confirm grade and hours on site.

● ON THE WATER THIS WINDOW

Monday's slight storm chance is a standard dawn-to-shade day if the permit and launch are in order. Tuesday's wetter storms favor protected pockets and a hard lightning plan. Wednesday's sunny reset is the cleaner-water topwater morning — start early near the Coolidge Dam / Soda Canyon corridor.

Line and leader: fluoro in the teens for brush; lighter leaders when Wednesday cleans the points. Keep a walking bait and a dark creature ready so you can match clear vs stained pockets without a full box rebuild on the water.

Permit checklist every trip: current tribal recreation permit on your person, launch status confirmed, and respect for posted restricted water. No permit means the truck stays hitched. Soft midweek pressure is a privilege of legal access — treat it that way.

Mental picture: permit first, then a storm-Tuesday pocket bite, then a cleaner Wednesday dawn. Everything else on this card is secondary to legal access.

If Wednesday opens clear, start with a walking bait on a point near the Soda Canyon corridor, then rotate to brush as the sun climbs. If Tuesday's rain left stain, open with a darker jig or creature on the first clean edge and switch to chrome only when the graph shows shad up in clearer water.

SOURCES

NWS Phoenix (PSR) (Friday morning AZ pull) · agency lake / park / USFS / NPS pages (generation calendars thin at pull) · Pure-Gas.org station list (reuse) · AZGFD regs (live) · Trail calendars skimmed (no named event confirmed for this window).