



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
lakes • rivers • nationwide



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

C.J. Strike: Smallmouth Heat, Sunny Midweek & Soft Desert Pressure

C.J. Strike Reservoir · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in MT

MT

Idaho Power

Sunny/warm

Highs ~86° Mon → ~92° midweek (NWS BOI)

Primary: Smallmouth bass

Strike still fishes warm in late September — smallmouth on rock before the desert wind stands the lake up.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Boise / C.J. Strike (NWS forecast grid; pulled Sun Sep 20 evening CT): **Monday** ~86°F — Sunny, precip ~0% · **Tuesday** ~86°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~2% · **Wednesday** ~88°F — Sunny, precip ~0% · **Thursday** ~92°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0%. For **Smallmouth bass**: Rock/points at dawn; abort or relocate if desert wind stacks waves.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: Weekday soft. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu.**

Water clarity: Often stained to moderate.

MONDAY SEP 21

~86°F

Low ~50° · ~0% precip · 2 to 10 mph E

Sunny

Sunrise **7:18 AM** · Sunset **7:42 PM** MT (approx band — confirm local)

Best bite: first light—~9 AM MT; wind decides midday

Sunny, with a high near 86. East wind 2 to 10 mph....

TUESDAY SEP 22

~86°F

Low ~49° · ~2% precip · 1 to 5 mph E

Mostly Sunny

Sunrise **7:19 AM** · Sunset **7:40 PM** MT (approx band — confirm local)

Best bite: first light—~9 AM MT; wind decides midday

Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. East wind 1 to 5 mph....

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~88°F

Low ~51° · ~0% precip · 2 to 7 mph E

Sunny

Sunrise **7:20 AM** · Sunset **7:38 PM** MT (approx
band — confirm local)

Best bite: first light~9 AM MT; wind decides
midday

Sunny, with a high near 88....

THURSDAY SEP 24

~92°F

Low ~—° · ~0% precip · 6 to 18 mph ESE

Mostly Sunny

Sunrise **7:22 AM** · Sunset **7:36 PM** MT (approx
band — confirm local)

Best bite: first light~9 AM MT; wind decides
midday

Mostly sunny, with a high near 92....

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Live/provisional pulls Sun Sep 20 CT. Soft confirm current boards before you go — do not invent unit counts. Schedules change without notice.

PROJECT	OBSERVED	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	HOW TO FISH IT
C.J. Strike Dam Idaho Power	Re-check pool/ discharge.	No invented schedule.	Rock/points SMB; watch desert wind.

Schedules change without notice — confirm current boards before you go.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public access rock at dawn.

KAYAK

PFD; wind.

BOAT

Graph rock; early start.

Hydrate. Warm afternoons are real — dawn/dusk carry the week.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walker

MID

Spinnerbait

Tube

BOTTOM

Jig

Carolina

Stain / clear match: Contrast colors OK.

● LIFE STAGE

Late summer SMB; warm afternoons linger.

What's on the menu: Craw/baitfish.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

CRAPPIE

Secondary.

CATFISH

Secondary.

Regs: Idaho Fish & Game — <https://idfg.idaho.gov/fish> — live-check only; do not hardcode lengths.

● WINDOW TACTICS IN DEPTH

Through **Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24** (MT), treat this as a **true midweek Cast** — not a weekend recreation summary. Lead with **Smallmouth bass** because that is what most anglers can execute on this water this week without inventing a miracle bite. Soft language stays soft: if a board, hatch, or tournament calendar was thin at Sunday pull, we say so instead of filling gaps with fiction.

Desert-reservoir smallmouth: dawn rock, hydrate, respect wind. Soft Idaho Power re-check.

Bank depth: Public rock dawn.

Kayak depth: PFD; wind.

Boat depth: Graph rock; early start.

● PRESSURE, SAFETY & HONESTY NOTES

- **Heavy Traffic:** No named trail event pulled.
- **Lightning / storms:** Heat + wind — abort early if either stacks.
- **What we did not invent:** pump prices not listed as fake E0 quotes; generator unit counts not fabricated; tournament fields not invented; hatch dates not invented.
- **Shared / border notes:** Idaho.

● LOOKING AHEAD (NEXT 1–3 WEEKS)

Warm afternoons linger — dawn/dusk carry into next weekend.

Next Cast: Friday Cast window Fri–Sun after the Thu local gather. Spot-check any new trail announcements for Heavy Traffic language.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Depth note on E0: Station identity is crowdsourced from Pure-Gas.org. Distances are rough to the map pin. This rewrite does **not** invent pump prices — if a price is not confirmed, the card says verify at the pump.

Source: [Pure-Gas.org](https://pure-gas.org) · Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening CT — verify at pump

Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening CT — verify at pump) — may change; verify at the pump.
No invented E0 pump prices in this rewrite.

Pure-Gas.org — Mountain Home / Bruneau corridor — Mountain Home, ID · ~varies mi · E0 · price not listed — verify at pump · [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Crowdsourced E0 identity; distances rough to pin. Call ahead. Gather notes referenced in CT; Cast clocks use MT.

● CONDITIONS THIS WEEK

Use the day cards as the clock. If a Tuesday cell threat rises on the latest NWS forecast, believe the grid over any lure paragraph in this document. If a dam board is blank at Sunday pull, the Cast says the board is blank — then tells you when to re-check — instead of fabricating a four-day unit schedule.

How to use the sections: Midweek outlook = weather + pressure + clarity. Dam cheat sheet = what is known / unknown and how current (or the lack of it) moves fish. Bank / kayak / boat = three different access realities on the same water. Lure box = top/mid/bottom matched to clarity and primary species. Life stage = seasonal position without pretending a spawn that is not happening. Also hot = secondary species without stealing the lead. Looking ahead = next 1–3 weeks and the Friday Cast handoff. E0 = Pure-Gas identity with verify-at-pump pricing honesty.

● PLATFORM CHECKLISTS (EXPANDED)

BANK CHECKLIST

Confirm public access / park hours before you leave the truck.

First casts at first legal light on the highest-percentage edge for the primary species.

Carry one search bait and one finesse bait — do not empty the box onto one rock.

Leave for lightning; leave for unsafe wakes/wind; leave if an area is posted closed.

Photograph conditions (clarity, wind lanes) so the next trip starts smarter.

KAYAK CHECKLIST

PFD on before paddle hits water.

Pick a protected first hour if wind is already up at the ramp.

Stay out of dam boils / restricted cable zones.

Leash rod/paddle; pack a simple re-entry plan if you dump.

If boat traffic increases, leave the channel and fish inside edges.

BOAT CHECKLIST

Graph before you camp — bait and bottom first.

Idle near ramps, beaches, and timber; no-wake where posted.

Re-check pool / generation / wind before a long midday run.

Keep a second rod ready when sun climbs and fish slide.

Have an exit ramp if the main lake stands up.

● FORAGE & LURE LOGIC (EXPANDED)

Match the primary species' most likely grocery list for late September — then let clarity choose color. Clear water: naturals, smoked greens, translucent baitfish. Stained water: chartreuse, black, white, or opaque baitfish. Wind-blown banks often concentrate forage and give search baits a lane; slick midday clear water often needs smaller profiles and longer pauses.

If the primary species is perch, white bass, hybrids, or crappie, do not force a largemouth magazine intro onto the page. Lead the species that actually pays the weekday bills on that water, then park bass / trout / muskie / catfish in Also hot with short, honest notes.

Regs: Live-check IDFG before you keep fish. This Cast does not hardcode inch limits or season dates that can change.

● SOURCES & RE-CHECK LIST

- NWS forecast grids for the local office named in the outlook (pulled Sun Sep 20 evening CT; re-check morning of launch).
- Agency dam / lake pages cited in the dam table — re-check pool and any generation boards after ~local evening updates.
- Pure-Gas.org for E0 station identity; pump prices verify-on-site.
- State agency regs pages (IDFG) — live-check.
- Local club / trail calendars skimmed for Heavy Traffic — none invented when none were pulled.

Sources: NWS forecast grids (NWS Boise / C.J. Strike); Pure-Gas.org E0 listings; agency dam/lake pages as cited in table. Pin 42.9500, -115.9670. Schedules change without notice — confirm current boards before you go. Freshwater Cast · Monday **Cast** · Idaho · C.J. Strike Reservoir · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening CT.

● EXTRA DEPTH — C.J. STRIKE DESERT WIND & HEAT

C.J. Strike's weekday story is smallmouth on rock before desert wind owns the afternoon. Hydrate, start at first light, and treat a rising west/southwest breeze as a relocate-or-quit signal. Soft Idaho Power pool/discharge re-check — no invented unit counts. Crappie and catfish stay secondary. Warm afternoons linger into next weekend, so dawn and dusk remain the transferable windows for the Friday Cast handoff.