



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
lakes • rivers • nationwide



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Coeur d'Alene: Clear-Water Smallmouth, Cool MT Mornings & Soft Weekday Traffic

Lake Coeur d'Alene · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in MT

MT water-local

Weekday soft

Clear-water finesse

Highs ~82° Mon → ~71° midweek (NWS OTX/CDA)

Primary: Smallmouth bass

North Idaho finally remembers September — cool MT mornings and clear rock reward finesse smallmouth before the recreation crowd wakes up.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Spokane / Coeur d'Alene corridor (NWS forecast grid; pulled Sun Sep 20 evening CT):

Monday ~82°F — Sunny, precip ~0% · **Tuesday** ~76°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0% · **Wednesday** ~70°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0% · **Thursday** ~71°F — Partly Sunny, precip ~13%. For

Smallmouth bass: Lean first light on rock points and transitions; clear-water fluoro; wind-blown banks when afternoon breeze builds.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: Weekday soft. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu** on CDA at Sunday pull. Soft recreational only.

Water clarity: Estimate: Main-lake often clear late Sep; creek arms stain after wind/rain. No live turbidity sensor used.

MONDAY SEP 21

~82°F

Low ~55° · ~0% precip · 2 mph SE

Sunny

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

Best bite: first light~9 AM MT; soft midday on clear main lake

Sunny. High near 82, with temperatures falling to around 80 in the afternoon. Southeast wind around 2 mph....

TUESDAY SEP 22

~76°F

Low ~52° · ~0% precip · 5 mph SW

Mostly Sunny

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

Best bite: first light~9 AM MT; soft midday on clear main lake

Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Southwest wind around 5 mph....

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~70°F

Low ~50° · ~0% precip · 5 mph SW

Mostly Sunny

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

Best bite: first light~9 AM MT; soft midday on clear main lake

Mostly sunny, with a high near 70....

THURSDAY SEP 24

~71°F

Low ~—° · ~13% precip · 2 mph NE

Partly Sunny

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

Best bite: first light~9 AM MT; soft midday on clear main lake

Partly sunny, with a high near 71....

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Natural lake + Spokane River outlet influence. Soft re-check USGS/IDFG before launch. No peaking hydropower board like Snake projects.

PROJECT	OBSERVED	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	HOW TO FISH IT
Coeur d'Alene / Spokane R. outlet USGS / county ramps	Natural lake — no USACE daily gen board. Watch wind on open lake.	N/A — not a peaking hydropower pool. Soft language only.	Fish rock points & breaks; wind-blown banks when afternoon breeze builds. Graph bait first.

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

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Tubbs Hill / city parks — dawn rock for smallmouth.

Clear-water fluoro mindset; light line.

PFD near drop-offs; watch cliff edges.

Late afternoon shade lines if wind lays down.

KAYAK

Protected bays when main lake chops.

PFD; avoid shipping lanes near city front.

Soft weekday ramp ease vs weekend.

Pack a wind backup plan — CDA stands up fast.

BOAT

Graph bait / rock transitions first.

Long points & humps for SMB.

Wind can stand the main lake up quickly — know your exit.

Keep a second rod for mid-depth drop-shot when sun climbs.

Primary story is clear-water smallmouth. Kokanee/trout programs exist but stay secondary this Cast — do not force a bass-only joke onto a multi-species lake.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait / popper at first light (chrome, bone)

Small buzz on cloudy edges

Quiet soft plastics if boats pressure a bank

MID

Tube / Ned on rock

Small swimbait / underspin

Drop-shot smoke/green

Damiki-style hover when fish suspend

BOTTOM

Football jig craw

Finesse jig on deep rock

Carolina / shaky on clear banks

Ned with tungsten when pressured

Stain / clear match: Clear water — natural/smoke/green; darker if wind-stained pockets.

● LIFE STAGE

Late summer → early fall transition. Smallmouth relating to rock and bait edges; mornings cool in MT. Not a full fall creek-run yet — treat as clear-water rock fishing with expanding dawn windows midweek.

What's on the menu: Likely: juvenile baitfish / craw on rock; match small profiles. Dated hatch reports thin — no invented insect emergences.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

KOKANEE

Deeper troll/jig where legal — secondary to this Cast's SMB plan.

RAINBOW TROUT

Secondary; do not invent seasons — live-check IDFG.

LARGEMOUTH

Weedy pockets / docks — 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.

On Coeur d'Alene, clear main-lake rock is the transferable story: long casts, light fluoro, and bait-matching small profiles. When afternoon wind builds, swing to the blown bank and upsize slightly. Creek arms are the stain plan after weather — not a guess about a hatch that was not documented.

Bank depth: Tubbs Hill and city/county public rock at dawn; keep casts parallel to drop-offs; pack light and move if pleasure traffic arrives midmorning.

Kayak depth: Stay inside protected bays when the main lake whitecaps; avoid the city front shipping lane; PFD on before you leave the ramp.

Boat depth: Graph bait and rock transitions first; do not idle through swimming areas; keep a second finesse rod ready when sun climbs and fish slide deeper on the same points.

● **PRESSURE, SAFETY & HONESTY NOTES**

- **Heavy Traffic:** No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu on CDA. Soft weekday recreation only — weekend pressure is a different Cast.
- **Lightning / storms:** North Idaho cells are less likely than the Midwest this window, but wind is the real hazard — abort if the main lake stands up.
- **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 water; standard IDFG regs. No shared-water duplicate gather this cycle.

● **LOOKING AHEAD (NEXT 1–3 WEEKS)**

Cooler MT nights should widen dawn windows into next weekend. Re-check IDFG and any ramp notices. Watch weekend recreation for the next Cast's Heavy Traffic call.

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 — Pure-Gas identity; pump prices not confirmed

Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening CT — Pure-Gas identity; pump prices not confirmed) — may change; verify at the pump. No invented E0 pump prices in this rewrite.

Pure-Gas.org listing — Coeur d'Alene / Post Falls corridor — Coeur d'Alene, ID · ~varies mi · E0 · price not listed — verify at pump · [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Marina / city corridor stations near lake — CDA waterfront corridor · ~<5 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 Spokane / Coeur d'Alene corridor); Pure-Gas.org E0 listings; agency dam/lake pages as cited in table. Pin 47.5150, -116.8325. Schedules change without notice — confirm current boards before you go.

Freshwater Cast · Monday **Cast** · Idaho · Lake Coeur d'Alene · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening CT.