



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
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FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Hayden Lake: Local Smallmouth, Soft Midweek Pressure & Clear Edges

Hayden Lake · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in MT

MT

Weekday soft

Public access only

Highs ~82° Mon → ~72° midweek (NWS OTX)

Primary: Smallmouth bass

Hayden is the quieter neighbor — treat it like a clear-water smallmouth pond with mountain manners and private-shore respect.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Spokane / Hayden Lake (NWS forecast grid; pulled Sun Sep 20 evening CT): **Monday** ~82°F — Sunny, precip ~0% · **Tuesday** ~77°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0% · **Wednesday** ~70°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0% · **Thursday** ~72°F — Partly Sunny, precip ~10%. For **Smallmouth bass**: Dawn topwater/finesse on public rock; respect private shoreline all day.

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

Water clarity: Often clear; respect private shoreline.

MONDAY SEP 21

~82°F

Low ~57° · ~0% precip · 3 mph SW

Sunny

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

Best bite: first light—~9 AM MT

Sunny. High near 82, with temperatures falling to around 80 in the afternoon. Southwest wind around 3 mph....

TUESDAY SEP 22

~77°F

Low ~52° · ~0% precip · 2 to 7 mph S

Mostly Sunny

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

Best bite: first light—~9 AM MT

Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. South wind 2 to 7 mph....

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~70°F

Low ~51° · ~0% precip · 3 to 7 mph S

Mostly Sunny

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

Best bite: first light—~9 AM MT

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

THURSDAY SEP 24

~72°F

Low ~—° · ~10% precip · 3 mph NE

Partly Sunny

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

Best bite: first light—~9 AM MT

Partly sunny, with a high near 72....

● 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
Hayden Lake Local access	Natural lake levels — watch wind.	N/A	Rock/weed edges; finesse SMB.

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

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public access only — respect private.

Dawn topwater/finesse.

Pack out trash; keep noise down near homes.

KAYAK

Quiet bays; PFD.

Stay off private docks.

BOAT

Small craft friendly; graph weed/rock.

Idle near homes.

Keep the plan simple: clear-water SMB on public water. Secondary largemouth/trout stay short.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Popper/walker

MID

Ned/tube

Wacky

BOTTOM

Jig

Drop-shot

Stain / clear match: Clear naturals.

● LIFE STAGE

Late summer SMB on edges; cool mornings help.

What's on the menu: Craw/baitfish.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

LARGEMOUTH

Weed pockets secondary.

TROUT

Secondary — live-check regs.

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.

Keep Hayden simple: public-water smallmouth, clear-water finesse, private-shore respect. Do not invent marina gossip as Hot Traffic.

Bank depth: Public only; dawn topwater then Ned/tube; quiet near homes.

Kayak depth: Quiet bays; PFD; stay off private docks.

Boat depth: Small craft; idle near homes; graph weed/rock edges.

● PRESSURE, SAFETY & HONESTY NOTES

- **Heavy Traffic:** No named trail event pulled. Soft weekday.
- **Lightning / storms:** Wind on a small lake still ends a kayak day — be honest about it.
- **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 only.

● LOOKING AHEAD (NEXT 1–3 WEEKS)

Cool nights → stronger dawn bite 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 — Hayden/CDA corridor — Hayden, 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 Spokane / Hayden Lake); Pure-Gas.org E0 listings; agency dam/lake pages as cited in table. Pin 47.7625, -116.7192. Schedules change without notice — confirm current boards before you go. Freshwater Cast · Monday **Cast** · Idaho · Hayden Lake · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening CT.