



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
lakes • rivers • nationwide



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Pend Oreille: Deep Clear Water, Trout Specialty Notes & Smallmouth Rock

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

MT

Deep clear lake

Weekday soft

Highs ~75° Mon → ~67° midweek (NWS OTX)

Primary: Smallmouth bass

Pend Oreille rewards patience — deep, clear, and cold-blooded. Lead with actionable smallmouth on rock; keep trout as the famous specialty secondary.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Spokane / Pend Oreille corridor (NWS forecast grid; pulled Sun Sep 20 evening CT):

Monday ~75°F — Sunny, precip ~0% · **Tuesday** ~72°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0% · **Wednesday** ~66°F — Mostly Sunny, precip ~0% · **Thursday** ~67°F — Partly Sunny, precip ~12%. For **Smallmouth bass**: Rock points and breaks at dawn; long fluoro; abort if NW wind stacks waves on the main lake.

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

Water clarity: Often very clear — fluorocarbon / natural colors. Wind can dirty nearshore briefly.

MONDAY SEP 21

~75°F

Low ~57° · ~0% precip · 0 to 5 mph S

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 75. South wind 0 to 5 mph....

TUESDAY SEP 22

~72°F

Low ~54° · ~0% precip · 1 to 5 mph S

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 72. South wind 1 to 5 mph....

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~66°F

Low ~53° · ~0% precip · 2 to 6 mph SW

Mostly Sunny

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

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

Mostly sunny, with a high near 66....

THURSDAY SEP 24

~67°F

Low ~—° · ~12% precip · 2 mph N

Partly Sunny

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

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

Partly sunny, with a high near 67....

● 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
Lake Pend Oreille USGS / USACE context	Deep natural lake — wind and clarity are primary ops.	No fixed Mon–Thu public bass-boat gen calendar used.	Rock points, breaks, wind-blown banks; trout programs go deeper with specialty gear.

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

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public access rock/gravel at dawn.

Clear-water light line.

Watch afternoon wind.

KAYAK

Stay near structure; big water gets dangerous fast.

PFD mandatory mindset.

Protected arms if NW wind builds.

BOAT

Graph first — bait and rock.

SMB on points; trout specialty gear separate.

File a float plan on this water.

Do not rewrite Pend Oreille as a bass-only lake — trout are part of the identity. This Cast still leads SMB because that is the transferable Mon–Thu tactic for most readers.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Dawn walking bait on calm rock

MID

Tube/Ned

Drop-shot

Small swimbait

BOTTOM

Jig/craw

Blade on wind

Finesse worm

Stain / clear match: Clear — naturals. Wind stain → slightly darker.

● LIFE STAGE

Fall transition beginning; SMB on rock, trout deeper. Cool MT mornings expand the shallow window midweek.

What's on the menu: Craw/baitfish on rock; open-water bait for trout programs. Dated hatch thin — soft language.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

GERRARD RAINBOW / LAKE TROUT

Specialty deep presentations
— secondary section, not ignored.

BULL TROUT

Know regs — do not invent seasons; live-check IDFG.

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.

Pend Oreille is deep and clear — smallmouth on rock is the Mon–Thu plan most readers can run. Trout specialty programs stay in Also hot with honest specialty language, not a fake bass-only rewrite of the lake's identity.

Bank depth: Public rock/gravel at first light; light line; leave if wind stacks waves against the bank.

Kayak depth: Big-water caution is non-negotiable; PFD; hug structure; retreat to arms if NW wind builds.

Boat depth: Float plan recommended; graph first; separate trout gear only if you came for that program.

● PRESSURE, SAFETY & HONESTY NOTES

- **Heavy Traffic:** No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu. Soft recreational.
- **Lightning / storms:** Wind > lightning is usually the cancel button here.
- **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; IDFG live-check. Trout regs can be special — do not invent seasons.

● LOOKING AHEAD (NEXT 1–3 WEEKS)

Next cool-down sharpens morning SMB. Wind forecasts matter more than a lure color debate.

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 — Sandpoint corridor — Sandpoint, 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 / Pend Oreille corridor); Pure-Gas.org E0 listings; agency dam/lake pages as cited in table. Pin 48.1667, -116.3333. Schedules change without notice — confirm current boards before you go.

Freshwater Cast · Monday **Cast**<