



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Fort Peck Lake: Cool Mornings, Steady 7k Releases & Walleye First Light

Missouri River mainstem · Duck Creek / Fort Peck Dam corridor · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT

Highs ~68° Mon → ~75° Tue → ~65° Wed (NWS GGW)

USACE FTPK PPO #185 · avg release ~7,000 cfs (confirm before you go)

Primary: walleye · soft recreational pressure

No named trail event pulled for Oct 2–4

October settles in on the Big Dry — cool dawn air, mild Friday and Sunday afternoons, a breezier Saturday chop on the main pool, and enough steady Fort Peck discharge to keep the Missouri tailwater talking for walleye from first light through the morning window.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Glasgow (GGW) grid for the Fort Peck Dam / Duck Creek corridor keeps northeast Montana in a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun). **Friday** opens mostly sunny with a high near **68°F** and a low near **50°F**, south breeze S 2 to 10 mph — cool-morning walleye air with a usable afternoon chop if that south wind holds. **Saturday** is the breeziest day (~64°F / ~43°F), mostly sunny with a northwest breeze NW 13 mph that should put real chop on the main pool. **Sunday** stays sunny (~67°F / ~48°F) with an east-southeast breeze ESE 7 to 14 mph. Storm chances stay **near zero** all three days. No active NWS Montana watches or warnings for the Fort Peck corridor at this Friday morning pull.

For walleye (primary this week): lean **first light through mid-morning** on the Missouri below Fort Peck Dam, Duck Creek arm transitions, and windward points once Saturday's northwest breeze puts a chop on the main pool. Mild Friday and Sunday afternoons can push fish a touch deeper or under shade lines; Saturday's cooler high and wind should widen the mid-day window. Weekend recreational pressure is the real variable — **no named B.A.S.S. / FLW / ABA trail event pulled** for Fort Peck on Oct 2–4, but local Friday–Sunday traffic usually runs heavier than midweek here.

FRIDAY OCT 2**~68°F**

Low ~50° · ~0% storms · S 2 to 10 mph

Mostly Sunny — cool start, mild afternoon for shallow walleye edges

Sunrise **7:13 AM** · Sunset **6:34 PM** MT

Best bite: first light—~10 AM on current seams and creek mouths; confirm the latest USACE release before your midday plan

SATURDAY OCT 3**~64°F**

Low ~43° · ~0% storms · NW 13 mph

Mostly Sunny; northwest breeze puts usable chop on the main lake

Sunrise **7:14 AM** · Sunset **6:32 PM** MT

Best bite: dawn shallow; mid-day slide to 12–20 ft windward points and flooded timber edges

SUNDAY OCT 4**~67°F**

Low ~48° · ~0% storms · ESE 7 to 14 mph

Sunny with an east-southeast breeze — another clean fall day

Sunrise **7:15 AM** · Sunset **6:30 PM** MT

Best bite: first light—late morning; expect more weekend boat traffic on Duck Creek and the dam pool

WINDOW NOTE**Fri–Sun only**

Next Cast cycle covers Mon onward

Monday trend: watch GGW for any early-week cool-down or release change

No storm train in the extended outlook for this corridor

Clarity unconfirmed lake-wide; expect clearer water in protected arms after calm nights

● DAM / RELEASE CHEAT SHEET

USACE Northwestern Division Missouri River Basin **Fort Peck (FTPK) Power Production Order No. 185** (combined reservoir regulation / power), last dated **Sep 26, 2026 0000 hrs through Sep 28, 2026 2400 hrs** (confirm latest order). Posted daily release schedule: average discharge **~7,000 cfs** (allowable band roughly ± 300 cfs). Daily generation schedule listed at **~2,150 MWh**. Hourly power limitations on the order cite a maximum near **116 MW** and minimum near **45 MW**. Live pool elevation / inflow tables were thin on the public ORD_FTPK page at this Friday morning pull — treat the PPO release number as the hard, dated signal and confirm the latest USACE order before you go if the midweek sheet updates. Schedules **can change without notice**. Failover: USACE Fort Peck Project office / Missouri River Basin water-management pages, and the Fort Peck Dam Visitor Center corridor hotline posted on-site. Soft release → bite notes only.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	RELEASE / GENERATION	BITE CONTEXT
Fort Peck Dam FTPK · USACE NWD-MR	PPO #185 last dated Sep 26–28 confirm latest before launch	Avg discharge ~7,000 cfs Gen ~2,150 MWh/day <i>Tue–Wed orders not on this sheet — confirm the latest USACE release before your midday plan</i>	Steady mid-range powerhouse flow keeps Missouri tailwater seams honest for walleye at dawn; dam restricted zones are off-limits
Missouri River below dam tailwater / current seams	Flow driven by FTPK release Clarity unconfirmed	Expect continuous current at ~7k until a new PPO posts No hourly unit board published on this pull	Fish eddy lines, rock transitions, and soft current breaks — not the boil itself
Duck Creek / main pool arms home-shore pin corridor	Pool elev thin on public board Wind = Saturday story	No generator “blocks” on the lake itself — wind and forage locate fish	Calm Mon mornings favor creek mouths; Tue SW breeze favors windward points

Honest thin board: A newer PPO for this Fri–Sun window was not on the public sheet at pull. Use ~7,000 cfs as the working baseline from the last dated order, then **confirm the latest USACE release before you go**. Stay well clear of restricted dam zones and boom lines.

TAILWATER FRI–SUN

Steady ~7k cfs is enough current to stack walleye on seams without extreme boil chaos

First light with a jigging rap or soft plastic on the bottom is the high-percentage play

Safety first — never fish inside restricted markers

MAIN POOL FRI–SUN

Friday mild: creek arms and points at first light

Saturday chop: windward 12–20 ft breaks and timber edges

Sunday traffic: lee banks if whitecaps build; expect more boats on Duck Creek

● HOW TO FISH IT**BANK**

Start at legal public rock and riprap below the dam corridor (outside restricted markers), the Fort Peck Marina / Duck Creek shoreline parks, and the Rock Creek Recreation Area banks when wind allows. Dawn walk-and-cast with a 1/4–3/8 oz jig and soft plastic or a small crank along current breaks is the honest Friday plan. Midday mild air Saturday–Sunday can push you toward shaded riprap and deeper drops you can still reach from shore. Keep a life jacket on any slick rock, and give boat traffic room at popular ramps.

KAYAK

Duck Creek arm and protected coves are the smart kayak home when Saturday's northwest breeze climbs. Launch from established recreation-area ramps, hug the bank early for walleye on 8–14 ft transitions, then slide to windward points once the chop sets up. Saturday's northwest wind can stack whitecaps on the main pool — stay inside the arms or fish the lee. Always wear a PFD; this reservoir punishes open-water mistakes fast.

BOAT

Run the Missouri tailwater seams at first light (outside restricted water), then fan Duck Creek, Rock Creek, and main-lake points as the sun climbs. Saturday is the boat day: use the northwest chop to hide your presentation on windward breaks in 12–20 ft. Electronics matter here — look for bait balls and hard bottom transitions, not just random casting. Watch for submerged timber and unmarked rock; idle near recreation-area no-wake zones.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait / small spook — bone, chrome, or shad; calm Friday dawn over shallow points

#5–#7 floating Rapala — silver/black or firetiger along riprap before the sun clears the hills

Skip topwater once the breeze dirties the surface Saturday afternoon

MID

Jigging Rap / blade bait — glow, perch, or firetiger on current seams and 12–18 ft breaks

Shad-profile crank — chartreuse/white or natural shad on windward points Saturday

Spinnerbait — white/chartreuse along timber edges when chop builds

BOTTOM

1/4–3/8 oz jig + soft plastic — paddle tail or twister in smoke, chartreuse, or black/blue

Live-bait rig / crawler harness — classic Fort Peck walleye when the breeze puts a roll on the main pool

Drop-shot / finesse worm — clear-water arms Friday morning

● WALLEYE LIFE STAGE

Early October on Fort Peck is a **post-summer transition** for walleye: fish are sliding from shallow night/dawn feeding toward mid-depth structure as nights cool into the 40s. Expect the strongest shallow feed in the first two hours of light, then a slide to 12–20 ft points, flooded timber edges, and current-washed rock once the sun climbs. A steady ~7,000 cfs release keeps the Missouri below the dam as a reliable dawn option all three days — fish the seams, not the restricted boil. Saturday's northwest breeze is the wild card: use the chop, don't fight it. Secondary smallmouth and northern pike still show on the same structure with faster presentations.

● NATURAL FORAGE

Most-likely menu this week: **cisco / lake whitefish leftovers** in deeper main-pool breaks, **yellow perch** around timber and weed edges, and **young-of-year shad / shiners** in creek arms after calm nights. Hatch reports are thin for this corridor. Match what you mark on electronics: if bait is suspended at 14 ft on a windward point, start there with a jigging rap before you grind empty banks. Clarity unconfirmed; after calm nights, protected arms often fish clearer than the blown main lake on Saturday.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- **Smallmouth bass** — rock points and riprap with tubes and small cranks, especially Saturday chop
- **Northern pike** — weed edges and creek mouths with spinnerbaits and soft swimbaits; keep wire handy
- **Lake trout / deeper coldwater** — secondary only; main-pool deep breaks if walleye shut off midday

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

Soft recreational pressure for Fri–Sun. **No named national or regional trail event** was pulled for Fort Peck Lake on Oct 2–4 at this gather. Expect light weekday boat traffic at Duck Creek and the marina corridor, with a bump if the weekend sun draws locals. Ramp etiquette still matters — idle in no-wake zones and give bank anglers room below the dam corridor.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL · PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Closest Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free listings near Fort Peck (stations only — verify grade at the pump; listings can change):

- **Lakeridge Motel & C Store** — 6004 Hwy 24, Fort Peck, MT (~1.8 mi) · E0 unbranded 91 listed
- **Agland Co-Op** — 430 1st St N, Glasgow, MT (~15.3 mi) · E0 Cenex 91 listed
- **Farmers Union** — 201 Jordan Ave, Jordan, MT (~49.4 mi) · E0 Cenex 91 listed

No pump prices in this **Cast**. Confirm ethanol-free grade at the pump if that matters for your motor.

● LOOKING AHEAD

Next week's pattern is still taking shape on the GGW grid — treat midweek releases and any early-October cool snap as the variables to confirm before you trailer. Soft recreational pressure usually eases after the Sunday crowd clears; if Saturday's northwest breeze repeats midweek, windward main-lake breaks stay in play for walleye.

● SOURCES

- NWS Glasgow (GGW) gridpoint forecast for Fort Peck / Duck Creek — pulled Fri Oct 2 morning CT
- USACE NWD-MR Fort Peck PPO No. 185 (last dated Sep 26–28, 2026; confirm latest) — avg release ~7,000 cfs
- Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station listings near Fort Peck / Glasgow / Jordan
- Public recreation access notes: Duck Creek, Rock Creek Recreation Area, Fort Peck Marina corridor

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times Mountain (MT)