



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Lake McConaughy: Storm Edges, Cooling Water & Walleye on the Points

North Platte River · Arthur Bay / Ogallala corridor · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT

Highs ~72° Mon → ~68° Tue → ~67° Wed (NWS LBF)

Storms likely Mon night–Wed · pack a shell

CNPPID water ~71°F (1 m) as of Sep 22

Primary: walleye · soft recreational pressure

October settles onto Lake McConaughy — cool dawn air, a breezy Friday south wind, a warmer sunny Saturday, and enough Kingsley Dam current talk to keep walleye honest from first light through the morning window.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS North Platte (LBF) grid for the Lake McConaughy / Kingsley Dam corridor keeps the Nebraska Sandhills fringe in a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun). **Friday** opens sunny with a high near **68°F** and a low near **52°F**, south-southeast breeze SSE 5 to 25 mph — cool dawn walleye air with building afternoon wind on the main pool. **Saturday** is the warmest day (~**79°F** / ~**48°F**), sunny with a west-northwest breeze WNW 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday** stays sunny (~**70°F** / ~**53°F**) with an east-southeast breeze ESE 5 to 15 mph. Storm chances stay **near zero** all three days. No active NWS Nebraska watches or warnings for the McConaughy corridor at this Friday morning pull. Reader clocks below are **MT** (water-local for Kingsley / Ogallala).

For walleye (primary this week): lean **first light through mid-morning** on the dam face transitions, Lemoyne / Cedar View points, and windward main-lake breaks once Friday's south wind or Saturday's west-northwest breeze puts chop on the pool. Mild Saturday afternoon heat can push fish deeper; cooler Friday dawn and Sunday morning widen the shallow window. Weekend recreational pressure is the real variable — **no named B.A.S.S. / FLW / ABA trail event pulled** for McConaughy on Oct 2–4, but Friday–Sunday traffic usually runs heavier than midweek here.

FRIDAY OCT 2**~68°F**

Low ~52° · ~0% storms · SSE 5 to 25 mph

Sunny — cool start; south wind builds usable chop by afternoon

Sunrise **7:20 AM** · Sunset **6:40 PM MT**

Best bite: first light—~10 AM on dam-area seams and creek arms; slide deeper if whitecaps build

SATURDAY OCT 3**~79°F**

Low ~48° · ~0% storms · WNW 5 to 15 mph

Sunny; warmer air — fish shade lines and windward 12–20 ft breaks midday

Sunrise **7:21 AM** · Sunset **6:38 PM MT**

Best bite: dawn shallow; mid-day windward points and flooded timber edges

SUNDAY OCT 4**~70°F**

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · ESE 5 to 15 mph

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

Sunrise **7:22 AM** · Sunset **6:36 PM MT**

Best bite: first light again; expect more weekend boat traffic at Lemoyne and the dam pool

WINDOW NOTE**Fri–Sun only**

Next Cast cycle covers Mon onward

Monday trend: watch LBF for any early-week cool-down or wind shift

No storm train in the extended outlook for this corridor

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

● DAM / LEVEL CHEAT SHEET

Lake McConaughy is operated by the **Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID)**. At this Friday morning pull, the public operating-levels page did not yield a clean live elevation/release table in text form — treat pool elevation and Kingsley release as **thin on the board** and confirm CNPPID's Reservoir/River Data and boat-ramp pages before you go. What is solid and dated: CNPPID water temperature at 1 meter depth was **71°F on Sep 22, 2026** (cooling from 77°F on Sep 3 and 73°F on Sep 17). Schedules and ramp exposure **change with pool**. Failover: **cnppid.com** operations pages (operating levels, boat ramp info, Colors of Water tool) and on-site ramp signage at Arthur Bay / Martin Bay / Lake Ogallala. Soft level → bite notes only.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	OPS SIGNAL	BITE CONTEXT
Lake McConaughy CNPPID · Kingsley Dam	Water temp 71°F @ 1 m posted Sep 22	Live elev / cfs thin on public text pull <i>Confirm CNPPID levels before midday plan</i>	Cooling water = tighter walleye to points and breaks; watch ramp depth at low-exposure ramps
Arthur Bay (home pin) NGPC SRA public ramp	Primary access for this Cast	Ramp usability tracks pool — confirm CNPPID ramp board	Windward sand/rock at first light Friday; duck into the bay between Saturday cells
Lake Ogallala / tailwater below Kingsley	Release board thin this pull	Failover: CNPPID ops + on-site notices	Secondary trout/walleye option when main lake storms shut you down — still obey dam safety zones

Honest thin board: Live elevation and hourly release were thin on the public text pull. Confirm CNPPID operating levels and ramp info before you go. Dam restricted zones are off-limits.

MAIN LAKE FRI-SUN

Friday SSE wind = windward points for walleye before the overnight storm train

Tue–Wed showers: fish protected bays and short runs between cells

Cooling 71°F water favors slower jig presentations midday

STORM PLAN

Lightning = off the water — no debate

Stained water after heavy rain: chartreuse/orange and louder blades

Keep a bank backup at Arthur Bay / Lake Ogallala shoreline

● HOW TO FISH IT

BANK

Arthur Bay SRA shoreline, Martin Bay beaches, and the Lake Ogallala / Kingsley Dam corridor (outside restricted markers) are the honest weekday bank options. Dawn walk-and-cast with a 1/4 oz jig and soft plastic or a small crank along sand-to-rock transitions is the Friday plan before storms arrive. When cells stack Saturday–Sunday, fish short windows after rain passes and water color settles. Watch for slick algae-stained rock and give boat traffic room at the ramps.

KAYAK

Stay inside Arthur Bay and nearby protected coves when Friday's SSE breeze hits 15–20 mph and when Saturday–Sunday showers build north chop. Launch from the public SRA ramp, work 8–14 ft transitions at first light, then slide to windward points only if the sky is clear of lightning. A kayak is the right tool for hopping protected banks between cells — not for a long main-lake crossing under a dark shelf cloud. PFD on, always.

BOAT

Friday is the boat day if radar stays green: run windward points and mid-lake breaks with the SSE chop, then duck into Arthur Bay or Lake Ogallala when cells build. Electronics matter — mark bait and hard bottom, not random open water. Idle in no-wake zones near beaches and watch for unmarked sandbars as pool changes. Never outrun a thunderstorm across the main lake; Big Mac gets ugly fast.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait — bone or chrome on calm pockets after a cell passes

#5–#7 Rapala / Husky Jerk — silver/blue or firetiger along shallow points at dawn

Skip topwater in heavy chop or stained post-storm water

MID

Jigging Rap / blade — glow, perch, or firetiger on 10–18 ft breaks

Shad crank — chartreuse/white when water stains after rain

Spinnerbait — white/chartreuse on windward weed edges Friday

BOTTOM

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

Crawler harness / bottom bouncer — classic Big Mac walleye when the breeze puts a roll on

Drop-shot — clearer Arthur Bay pockets Friday morning

● WALLEYE LIFE STAGE

Early October on McConaughy is a **cooling-water transition**. With 1-meter temps now in the low 70s and nights dipping into the 50s, walleye tighten to points, sand-to-rock transitions, and mid-depth breaks after the shallow overnight feed. Expect the best shallow bite in the first two hours of light — especially Friday under that SSE breeze — then a slide to 10–18 ft once the sun climbs or showers dirty the shallows. Storm edges can trigger short feeding windows all three days. Secondary white bass and smallmouth show on the same windward structure with faster retrieves.

● NATURAL FORAGE

Most-likely menu this week: **gizzard shad** still roaming the main lake, **young-of-year shad/shiners** in bay backs after calm spells, and **perch / crayfish** on rock transitions. Hatch reports are thin. Match what you mark: if bait is pinned on a windward point at 12 ft, start with a jigging rap or harness before you grind empty sand. After heavy Friday-night / Saturday cells, expect stained water and lean louder, brighter profiles.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- **White bass** — windward points and bait balls with small jigs and spoons between showers
- **Smallmouth bass** — rock transitions with tubes and Ned rigs, especially clearer Arthur Bay pockets
- **Wipers / hybrid stripers** — secondary on open-water bait; respect weather before long runs

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

Soft recreational pressure for Fri–Sun, with a likely dip during the showery stretch. **No named national or regional trail event** was pulled for Lake McConaughy on Oct 2–4 at this gather. Expect lighter weekday traffic at Arthur Bay than a sunny weekend, then a bump if Sunday evening clears. Ramp etiquette still matters — idle near beaches and give bank anglers room.

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

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

- **Lured In** — 201 Diamond Spgs Trl, Ogallala, NE (~6.4 mi) · E0 unbranded 87 listed
- **Pump And Pantry** — 306 East First St, Ogallala, NE (~8.8 mi) · E0 unbranded 87 listed
- **Casey's General Store** — 101 Chuckwagon Rd, Ogallala, NE (~9.3 mi) · E0 Casey's 87/91 listed
- **Sapp Brothers Travel** — 101 Stage Coach Rd, Ogallala, NE (~9.3 mi) · E0 Shell 87 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 LBF grid — treat midweek wind 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 Friday's south breeze repeats midweek, windward main-lake breaks stay in play for walleye.

● SOURCES

- NWS North Platte (LBF) gridpoint forecast for McConaughy / Ogallala — pulled Fri Oct 2 morning CT
- CNPPID Lake McConaughy water temperature table (71°F @ 1 m on Sep 22, 2026)
- CNPPID operations pages (operating levels / boat ramp info) — live elev thin on text pull; failover noted
- Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station listings near Ogallala
- NGPC Lake McConaughy / Arthur Bay public access

Freshwater Cast · Nebraska · Lake McConaughy · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times Mountain (MT)