



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
lakes • rivers • nationwide



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST NORTH DAKOTA

Lake Ashtabula: Midweek Pattern, Local Boards & Walleye

Lake Ashtabula · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times CT

Mon–Thu Sep 21–24 · CT

Walleye

USACE Baldhill

Soft recreational

Re-check live boards

The week still fishes if you respect wind, boards, and bait — pack a rain shell when midweek storms show, and let walleye tell you when the fall transition actually clocks in on Lake Ashtabula.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS point guidance for Lake Ashtabula keeps the Monday Cast window (Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24) in a late-summer pattern that still rewards dawn and dusk first. All clock times below are **CT**. Read the day cards as a working plan, then re-pull the live NWS point forecast before you trailer — numbers below are from the Sunday research pull and can change.

Through the week: - Mon 21: High ~66°F, decreasing clouds; E 5–9 mph - Tue 22: High ~67°F, mostly sunny; SSE increasing to 12–17 mph - Wed 23: High ~68°F, breezy, 30% showers after 1pm; SSE 16–23 mph, gusts ~33 - Thu 24: High ~71°F, 20% showers before 1pm then mostly cloudy; S 10–13 mph; low ~52°F **Pattern note:** Obs pressure nearby:** Nearby KJMS ~30.21 in (Sun afternoon)

For Walleye: lean first light and last light while heat or wind is the story, then fish wind-blown banks, points, and any confirmed current seams once the day settles. By Wednesday–Thursday, cooler or calmer air (where forecast) should widen the morning window. Clarity unconfirmed lake-wide — trust what you see at the ramp. Soft recreational pressure this Cast window. Never invent boat counts or trail names. Additional NWS detail from research: Mon 21: High ~66°F, decreasing clouds; E 5–9 mph Tue 22: High ~67°F, mostly sunny; SSE

increasing to 12–17 mph Wed 23: High ~68°F, breezy, 30% showers after 1pm; SSE 16–23 mph, gusts ~33 Thu 24: High ~71°F, 20% showers before 1pm then mostly cloudy; S 10–13 mph; low ~52°F

MONDAY SEP 21

- Mon 21: High ~66°F, decreasing clouds; E 5–9 mph

Best bite: first light~9 AM CT; re-check boards before midday plan

Abort for lightning; hydrate on warm days

TUESDAY SEP 22

- Tue 22: High ~67°F, mostly sunny; SSE increasing to 12–17 mph

Best bite: first light~9 AM CT; re-check boards before midday plan

Abort for lightning; hydrate on warm days

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

- Wed 23: High ~68°F, breezy, 30% showers after 1pm; SSE 16–23 mph, gusts ~33

Best bite: first light~9 AM CT; re-check boards before midday plan

Abort for lightning; hydrate on warm days

THURSDAY SEP 24

- Thu 24: High ~71°F, 20% showers before 1pm then mostly cloudy; S 10–13 mph; low ~52°F

Best bite: first light~9 AM CT; re-check boards before midday plan

Abort for lightning; hydrate on warm days

● GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Live operator language for **Lake Ashtabula** (USACE Baldhill / NDGF). Times and elevations below are from the Sunday research scaffold — **verify dam boards before you go (CT)**. Do not invent unit counts, CFS, or midnight targets that were not posted.

WATER	SUNDAY OBS (RESEARCH)	SCHEDULE / OPERATIONS	GUIDANCE
Lake Ashtabula USACE Baldhill / NDGF	Elevation — re-check live board	Mon–Thu generator / release blocks often post late — re-check after evening update / before launch	Predicted values only when operator posted — otherwise honest re-check. Failover: operator lake page / district phone if published. Schedules change without notice.

Operator: USACE / Baldhill Dam (Lake Ashtabula — Sheyenne River). Levels: Exact elev not captured this pass — THIN. Pull USACE St. Paul District / Baldhill Dam data at assemble. Generator schedule language: Flood-risk / water-supply releases; not a published hourly recreation generation board. Confirm outflow before fishing dam-adjacent current. Sources: USACE MVP water management (Baldhill) — re-fetch at gather.

Soft current→bite only when generation / release is the story. Dam restricted zones always off-limits. If boards show Sunday-only at pull, treat Mon–Thu as not yet posted and pull again evening-before or ramp-side.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: hydrate early; midweek storms mean a lightning abort — leave the bank. Dam/restricted water always off-limits. USACE Baldhill / NDGF public recreation banks and ramp shoulders where bank fishing is posted — fees and gate hours verify live. Fish first light and last light CT on points, riprap, weed edges, and creek-mouth seams. Walleye-led days with pike in the mix; spinning or light baitcast. Soft weekday recreational unless Heavy Traffic names an event. Give other bank anglers room on short shoulders. Pack a rain shell when midweek cells are in the forecast; never invent boat counts.

KAYAK

Lake Ashtabula kayak plan: launch at public ramps with kayak-friendly shoulders; work lee shores when main-lake or open-fetch wind rises. PFD on — whistle recommended on big water. Vertical jigging and slow retrieves keep walleye pinned when bait is deep; abort if whitecaps stack. Soft plastics, jigs, and compact swimbaits keep fish in the strike zone without long casts into timber or rocks. Leave a weather margin midweek; do not paddle open water into cells. Soft recreational — still yield in narrow cuts.

BOAT

Plan: first light—~9 AM CT shallow points / riprap / creek mouths; midday graph bait on breaks and channel swings; evening revisit shade or wind seams. Idle clear of blast-off lanes if a club event appears. Re-check USACE / NDGF / NWD boards before launch — no invented release numbers. Soft recreational unless Heavy Traffic says otherwise. Trailer first for lightning. Lead the day for the primary species named above — water-first, not a national paste.

● LURE BOX

Lead the box for **Walleye**. Stained water: louder / chartreuse profiles. Clearer: natural shad / green pumpkin.

TOP

Long-line crank early/late when bait is up

Rip jig on windy points

Hair jig on slick calm mornings

MID

Spinner rig / crawler harness

Paddle soft on a lead head

Blade bait on windy breaks

BOTTOM

Jig + minnow / soft plastic

Live bait on a slip float where legal

Slow bottom bounce along breaks

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Primary species this week: Walleye — water-first.

Bass life stage (late Sep ND — seasonal): Fall transition / pre-turnover window depending on lake depth. Cooler nights push bait shallow-to-mid; largemouth and smallmouth (where present) key on bait schools and wind-blown banks. Deep mainstem reservoirs: focus points, flooded timber edges, and current seams near structure. What's on the menu: Most likely young-of-year baitfish / cisco-smelt-shad analogs by water, perch/bluegill where present. Thin on dated 2026 forage reports this pass — seasonal most-likely only.

What's on the menu: Most likely young-of-year baitfish and lake-typical forage (shad / herring / perch / bluegill analogs by water). Thin on dated 2026 stomach-content reports this pass — seasonal most-likely only. Match lure size to the bait you see.

Life-stage language is seasonal, not a creel survey. If fish are locked deep on bait, follow electronics; if they are chasing on top at first light, stay shallow until the sun climbs.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Secondary chase on Lake Ashtabula: Walleye; northern pike; yellow perch; crappie. (Regs: live-link NDGF only — do not invent.)

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: In Cast window / looking ahead: No named tournament pulled for Lake Ashtabula Sep 21–Oct mid this pass. Sources checked: ND GF permitted list · Badlands Bass Bandits Never invent boat counts. Soft recreational still means give rentals, pontoons, and bank anglers room.

Primary reminder: Lead the week for Walleye — water-first, not a national paste. Regs live-link only (state wildlife agency creel & size limits). Reciprocal / border waters: confirm live; do not invent sister-state rules.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): Cool nights (Mon night lows ~39–45°F area) — classic fall transition. No sourced tournaments this pass. Watch for bait pushes into creek backs and less reliance on pure midday heat as nights ease. Keep pulling live elevations / lake pages. Next Cast product: Friday window Fri–Sun (CT).

Panfish and catfish remain seasonal options where the lake supports them — early-fall brush and deeper channel swings on warm nights early-week. White bass / hybrids (where present) often show on wind or current seams when bait compresses. Smallmouth (where the lake holds them) reward clean rock and current edges when wind sets up. If a club or permitted tournament appears on a look-ahead calendar, treat ramp density as Heavy Traffic even when the species focus is walleye or multi-species — boat wakes and blast-off lanes still matter.

Weather look-ahead stays subordinate to the live NWS point forecast: cooler mornings widen the bite window; post-storm mudlines can fire then shut off. Pack a rain shell when midweek storms are in the forecast. Hydrate early-week heat. Clarity, boat traffic, and bait location will tell you more at the ramp than any Sunday scaffold — use this Cast as a plan, not a guarantee.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

Current **E0** (ethanol-free) identity from Pure-Gas.org as of the Sunday research pull (CT).
Prices may change; verify octane and price at the pump. Call ahead — availability changes.

- **E0** — 33.9 mi — Eckman's Service (TESORO), 420 10th St Se, Jamestown ND — listed E0 octane(s): 91; tel 701-252-6341 [Pure-Gas id 12305]
- **E0** — 34.2 mi — Jetstream Car Wash (UNBRANDED), 1006 6th Ave Se, Jamestown ND — listed E0 octane(s): 91; tel 701-252-3932 [Pure-Gas id 51706]
- **E0** — 35.3 mi — Exxon (EXXON), 808 20th St Sw, Jamestown ND — listed E0 octane(s): 87, 91; tel 701-252-3363 [Pure-Gas id 12736]
- **E0** — 35.3 mi — Shell (SHELL), 2315 Highway 281 S, Jamestown ND — listed E0 octane(s): 87; tel 701-252-4732 [Pure-Gas id 44309]

Listed **E0** only. Crowdsourced Pure-Gas listings — not a pump guarantee.

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

In Cast window / looking ahead: No named tournament pulled for Lake Ashtabula Sep 21–Oct mid this pass. Sources checked: ND GF permitted list · Badlands Bass Bandits

● LOOKING AHEAD

Cool nights (Mon night lows ~39–45°F area) — classic fall transition. No sourced tournaments this pass.

Next Cast: Friday window Fri–Sun. Keep pulling live lake pages and trail calendars 1–3 weeks out.

● RAMP-TO-DARK CHECKLIST

- **Boards:** Re-pull operator lake / district pages the evening before and again at the ramp — Sunday research ages fast.
- **Sky:** Live NWS point forecast + radar; lightning means trailer first, every time.
- **Fuel:** Confirm **E0** still on the Pure-Gas listing and price at the pump — no invented prices.
- **Crowd:** Soft recreational still yields to rentals, pontoons, and bank anglers; named Heavy Traffic overrides the soft call.
- **Species:** Lead the day for the primary named above — water-first, not a national paste.
- **Exit:** Leave a weather margin on storm days; do not fish restricted dam water.

● FOUR-DAY FISHING PLAN

Use this as a Mon–Thu working script, then adjust to live boards and sky:

- **Monday:** First light on windward points and riprap; midday graph bait on breaks; evening revisit shallow shade. Soft recreational opener.
- **Tuesday:** If wind builds, fish mudlines and lee pockets rather than fighting whitecaps. Keep a storm abort plan if NWS cells are active.
- **Wednesday:** Often the unsettled day — shorter morning window, then trailer before storms. Post-cell mudlines can fire briefly; lightning still ends the day.
- **Thursday:** Clean-up day when skies improve — widen the morning window, cover water thoroughly, and note any look-ahead Heavy Traffic for the weekend.

Primary species leads every day — do not force a national bass paste on a walleye/pike/perch lake. Re-check operator pages and Pure-Gas **E0** before you trailer.

● SOURCES

NWS point forecasts for the pin · USACE Baldhill / NDGF lake / district pages · trail calendars when a named event was pulled · Pure-Gas.org public **E0** listings · Freshwater Cast gold standard (TN River AL Chain Monday Cast reference). Schedules change — verify dam boards before you go.