



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Francis Case: Fort Randall still pushing — walleye first, SMB on rock

Monday Sep 21 – Thursday Sep 24, 2026 · Lake Francis Case (Fort Randall Dam) · bank, kayak & boat · Monday morning through Thursday evening focus · times CT

Window Mon–Thu CT

Primary: walleye

Gen boards thin Mon–Thu

High release week on Fort Randall. Fish current breaks Mon–Thu; midweek showers keep boat pressure honest.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

****NWS**** pin forecast for Lake Francis Case (pulled Sun Sep 20 ~8:45–8:55 PM CT). Monday reads ****Rain Showers**** (~58°F); Thursday trends ****Chance Rain Showers**** (~71°F). All clock times ****CT****.

Barometer: K9V9 baro ~30.16 in, air ~57°F at pull. Clarity unconfirmed — do not invent stain.

WINDOW

Mon–Thu

through Thu evening CT

PRIMARY

walleye

localized — not bass-by-default

CROWD / PRESSURE

Weekday recreational soft Mon–Thu after residual weekend traffic Monday.

No named trail event pulled for this window on this water — re-check local clubs before launch.

MONDAY

High ~58°F / night ~47°F **CT** · 10 mph ENE ·
PoP ~84%

Rain Showers

Primary **walleye**: fish weather pauses and
forage edges — not a bass-by-default week.

TUESDAY

High ~62°F / night ~50°F **CT** · 5 to 15 mph
SE · PoP ~0%

Partly Sunny

Primary **walleye**: fish weather pauses and
forage edges — not a bass-by-default week.

WEDNESDAY

High ~67°F / night ~54°F **CT** · 20 mph SSE ·
PoP ~40%

Chance Rain Showers

Primary **walleye**: fish weather pauses and
forage edges — not a bass-by-default week.

THURSDAY

High ~71°F / night ~55°F **CT** · 10 to 20 mph
S · PoP ~35%

Chance Rain Showers

Primary **walleye**: fish weather pauses and
forage edges — not a bass-by-default week.

Verify local CT sunrise/sunset at pin (~7:05–7:10 AM CT class Monday Pierre/Watertown corridor). All Cast times CT.

● GENERATOR / POOL CHEAT SHEET

Live **USACE Missouri River Basin Water Management** board pulled **2026-09-20 ~8:13 PM CT** (https://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/reports/pdfs/MRBWM_Reservoir.pdf). Sunday elev/inflow/release only — **Mon–Thu hourly unit blocks not on this bulletin**; soft re-check language.

LAKE	SUN OBSERVED	INFLOW / RELEASE	NOTES
Fort Randall Dam (Lake Francis Case)	Elev **1353.82 ft** (Δ -0.08)	In ~27,000 cfs · out ~25,500 cfs	MP ~100.0% · re-check before launch

USACE MISSOURI · FORT RANDALL DAM

Primary story: **walleye**.
Secondaries: smallmouth bass, white bass, channel catfish.

FAILOVER

Re-check USACE/USBR/
NWS boards before launch
— Sunday numbers age
fast.

Schedules change without notice — re-check USACE / USBR / NWS before launch.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Platte Creek / Randall Creek / public Francis Case access: dawn/dusk points and riprap — walleye first.

Skip Fort Randall Dam restricted banks — USACE signs live-check.

High release week language: fish current breaks, not invented hourly unit counts.

Wind-blown banks after showers if safe; slippery clay after Monday rain.

Cooler midweek expands morning windows; hydrate early-week if residual warmth lingers.

Verify ramp fees and lake conditions live.

KAYAK

Parallel rock transitions and current seams; avoid Fort Randall discharge boil.

First light—~9 AM CT; re-check Fort Randall board (Sun high release — soft Mon–Thu re-check).

Midweek storms and SW wind: PFD, bail plan, no open-water lightning.

Graph bait; whites/SMB bycatch honest — walleye remains primary.

Stake lightly midday as fish slide deeper on September cool-downs.

Tow rope and whistle on big mainstem water.

BOAT

Suggested spot-check water: live Fort Randall release story + walleye primary + E0 card.

Graph bait and channel edges; lead-core/snap-weights if wind allows.

Launch Platte/Randall corridor early; re-pull MRBWM before midday.

Evening rock/points when wind lays; spotters near boil.

Clarity unconfirmed — natural/chrome first.

Soft recreational Mon–Thu; no named trail event pulled.

● LURE BOX — TOP / MID / BOTTOM

TOP

Small buzz/walker only if bait is breaking — otherwise skip topwater.

Long-bomb crank only on rare calm windows.

Whites/SMB may crash bait — keep one reaction rod ready.

MID

Shad-profile cranks and swimbaits along windward breaks.

Spinner harness + crawler where effective.

Hair jig or soft plastic on rock for SMB bycatch.

BOTTOM

Jig + minnow/plastic on points and river channel edges.

Live-bait rig off the break as nights cool.

Blade bait / hair jig when wind stands fish up.

Stain/clear: Clarity unconfirmed at pull — start natural/chrome and darken only if you see stain.

• LIFE STAGE + WHAT'S ON THE MENU

****Late summer → early fall transition.**** Cooler nights pulling ****walleye**** toward breaks and bait schools. Residual mild afternoons Wednesday–Thursday.

****What's on the menu**** (seasonal, not a dated hatch): YOY shad/minnows on mainstem; perch and invertebrates on glacial lakes. Match profile — do not invent a hatch date.

• ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · NEAR THIS WATER

Source: [Pure-Gas.org](https://pure-gas.org) pulled Sun Sep 20, 2026 ~8:55 PM CT. **Current prices — may change; verify at the pump.**

44 Road Stop, 21 W 7th St, Platte, SD — ~10.3 mi · E0 listing · Ethanol-free UNBRANDED 91; GPS located from address price not listed — verify at pump

Casey's General Store, 1 W 7th St, Platte, SD — ~10.4 mi · E0 listing · Ethanol-free CASEY'S 87; GPS located from address price not listed — verify at pump

Seversons, 601 Main Ave, Platte, SD — ~10.4 mi · E0 listing · Ethanol-free SINCLAIR 87; GPS entered by Jim price not listed — verify at pump

Gregory Sinclair, 408 W Hwy 18, Gregory, SD — ~22.4 mi · E0 listing · Ethanol-free SINCLAIR 87; GPS located from address price not listed — verify at pump

• ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- smallmouth bass — honest secondary this week
- white bass — honest secondary this week
- channel catfish — honest secondary this week
- Regs: [SD GFP Fishing](#) live-check only — do not hardcode inches/creel.

Regs: live-check only — never hardcode length/creel in **Cast** text.

Looking ahead (1–3 weeks): Cooler nights deepen fall bait/walleye patterns into late September. Looking ahead 1–3 weeks: watch SD GFP reports and any late-season trail announcements — none pulled for this Cast window.

Sources: NWS api.weather.gov forecast+obs · USACE MRBWM Reservoir bulletin 2026-09-20 ~8:13 PM CT · Pure-Gas.org E0 POI CSV · SD GFP regs live-check only · Drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 ~8:55 PM CT

Freshwater Cast · francis-case · South Dakota · Monday **Cast** · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 ~8:55 PM CT · SD map avatar