

MACK DAYS EVENT RULES

2017 Spring Mack Days-51 days

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday-competitive Mack Days for the lottery, prizes, tagged fish and bonuses-ends May 13th
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-will be bonus days and tagged fish only

Dates: **March 17th-May 14th** May 14th is a separate day with separate prizes from \$300-\$100

Anglers are responsible for reading and following all fishing regulations and the event rules.

1. All anglers must have state or tribal fishing licenses; based on which part of the lake they choose to fish. Mack Days Fishing Events include all of Flathead Lake. A special \$13 tribal license is available to any resident or non-resident for fishing the south half of Flathead Lake only. Anglers must observe U.S. Coast Guard, Tribal, and Montana FWP regulations. We recommend keeping cell phones in a water proof bag or container and ask that anglers wear their PFD's, and have a safety plan. Practice the three "C's"-caution, courtesy, & common sense.
2. **SPIRIT OF THE RULE:** It is the intention of this event to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Unsportsmanlike conduct, stealing, and cheating may result in disqualification. Anglers are asked to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, the sport of fishing and help sustain a successful Mack Days contest well into the future.
3. No pooling of fish is allowed, meaning all participants must report only the fish they catch themselves. Specifically for the "top anglers" "top ladies" "top youth" "over 70", the intent is that the contest be an individual competition rather than a team competition. We cannot police these highly competitive categories adequately and must rely on all anglers to respect the principle of fair competition. The rewards in these categories are intended to be more personal than monetary and therefore depend on the integrity of the competitors. Anglers may receive assistance from other anglers in the boat but need to respect the competitive nature of the contest, by clearly identifying their rods from those of other anglers present in the boat and being the only angler handling those rods. All anglers in a boat, entered in the contest, must have at least one fishing rod in the water and be responsible for the fish caught on that rod. Assistance does not include having a driver for a trolling boat unless anglers are rotating driving and fishing and/or separating their fish or dividing them equally. Keep separate coolers if necessary. If your numbers do not show that fish are being separated the numbers will be separated when checked in by officials. Having a person in a boat that is not fishing but is assisting and not turning in fish will be cause for disqualification from the top angler, ladies, over 70, or youth categories. This is a competition and everyone entered in the competition must follow the same rules.
4. Interpretation of the rules shall be left exclusively to the event officials/committee; all decisions are final. Only event officials or anglers entered in the event have the right to protest the actions of another angler. Protests by anglers must be filed in writing no later than 24 hours after the close of that fishing day. The event officials will convene/conference to investigate and make a decision. The decision will be a majority vote of the officials and will be final. Contestants waive any right or opportunity to appeal the decision of the officials to a higher authority, including any court of jurisdiction in this or any other state. Any person found violating the rules, stealing, or cheating in any form may be immediately disqualified and the reasons for disqualification announced at the event headquarters. Event officials reserve the right to change or modify these rules at any time.
5. Prizes will be awarded in the following amounts: Youth qualify for the lottery-up to \$600 in a lottery drawing. **Fri-Sun**
 - A. **Teens & Kids (13-17 years of age):** 1st-\$200, 2nd-\$150, 3rd-\$75, 4th-\$50, & 5th-\$50. If you are a top ten angler you do not win a youth category prize. Youth 17 & under are encouraged to have an adult on board when fishing from a boat. Fri-Sun
 - B. **Youth 12 & under-1st-\$100, 2nd- \$75, & 3rd-\$50.**If you are a top ten angler you do not win a youth prize. Fri-Sun
 - C. **Lake Trout Drawing-one ticket for each fish under 30"-all it takes is one fish to win!**
Cash Awards: drawing for cash prizes-your 18 best days Fri-Sun count
Limit of 2 cash prizes/angler in the lottery drawing/category.
Last day is a separate day for cash prizes-but will count for bonuses and tagged fish.
Merchandise prize drawing-must be present to win.

D. Bonuses -Your total at the end of the 51 days determines your bonus. Tues-Sun-every day counts for the bonus:

Tues.-Thurs.-totals will be separate from Fri.-Sun. until the event ends. Then the two will be added together.

# of fish	Bonus \$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
0-10	\$0	501-550	\$995	1101-1150	\$4,275	1701-1750	\$6,900	2301-2350	\$9,300
11-30	\$35	551-600	\$1,120	1151-1200	\$4,700	1751-1800	\$7,100	2351-2400	\$9,500
31-60	\$75	601-650	\$1,250	1201-1250	\$4,900	1801-1850	\$7,300	2401-2450	\$9,700
61-100	\$125	651-700	\$1,420	1251-1300	\$5,100	1851-1900	\$7,500	2451-2500	\$9,900
101-150	\$210	701-750	\$1,630	1301-1350	\$5,300	1901-1950	\$7,700	2501-2550	\$10,100
151-200	\$290	751-800	\$1,940	1351-1400	\$5,500	1951-2000	\$7,900	2551-2600	\$10,300
201-250	\$380	801-850	\$2,270	1401-1450	\$5,700	2001-2050	\$8,100	2601-2650	\$10,500
251-300	\$465	851-900	\$2,625	1451-1500	\$5,900	2051-2100	\$8,300	2651-2700	\$10,700
301-350	\$570	901-950	\$3,000	1501-1550	\$6,100	2101-2150	\$8,500	2701-2750	\$10,900
351-400	\$675	951-1000	\$3,400	1551-1600	\$6,300	2151-2200	\$8,700	2751-2800	\$11,100
401-450	\$765	1001-1050	\$3,750	1601-1650	\$6,500	2201-2250	\$8,900	2801-2850	\$11,200
451-500	\$875	1051-1100	\$4,035	1651-1700	\$6,700	2251-2300	\$9,100	2851-2900	\$11,400

E. Large Lake Trout Category- (See rules for large lake trout entries.) Fri-Sun-ends May 13th enter before dark or 9:00 each day
Prize-- 1st-\$500 (Must be over 36" & 24#'s to qualify in this category.) Fri-Sun-no lottery ticket for any fish over 30"

F. Other Prizes: Weekend Prizes-\$300 & \$200/ weekend-9 prizes-limit 2 per angler /category. **Fri-Sun ends Saturday May 13th**
Early Registration-\$200-qualify by entering before March 15th enter at least one fish. We do continue to accept entries up until the last day of the event.

Captain's Prizes-\$250_-enter with your name, the name or number of your boat or the boat you were boarded on when you enter your catch-4 prizes to boat captains-ends May 13th

Smallest Lake Trout--2 (\$250) prizes (-must be hooked) ends on Saturday May 13th

Golden Angler-(70 & over) \$200 & \$100-by fish totals. If you are a top ten angler you do not qualify. Two \$50 drawings

Top 10 Angler's-18/26 best days count Fri-Sun-**New-\$800-\$300-last day is a separate day ends May 13th** .

Ladies Only-\$300, \$200, \$100, \$100-determined by ladies totals. If you are a top ten angler you do not qualify-ends May 13th

SPECIAL-YETI Cooler-1 ticket for every 10 lake trout entries-ends May 13th

LAST DAY-May 14th-\$300, \$200, \$100 x 2 plus heaviest lake trout under 30"-1st-\$200, 2nd-\$100-your count for this day will be added to bonuses & tagged fish awards but not for any other awards-all other awards except tagged fish and last day awards end on May 13th .

G. Tagged Lake Trout Category- Tues-Sun (1) \$10,000, (2) \$5,000, & (5) \$1000 -plus over 6,000 \$100-\$500 are available.

Do not remove a tag before submitting for entry or it will be disqualified.

Background: **over 6,000** lake trout have been tagged & adipose fin clipped at different locations in Flathead Lake by CSKT & MFWP fisheries staff. Each tagged lake trout has a tag value from \$100 to \$10,000. Be aware that some anglers fin clip fish and those fish will not have tags. It will be helpful if you rubber band or fasten an electrical tie on the tail of any fish you have with a fin clip. Tagged fish have been released throughout the lake. PIT tags have been implanted beneath the skin in the lake trout. The tags are not visible. All adipose fin clipped lake trout will be scanned with an electronic reader by staff when fish are turned in at the Blue Bay check in headquarters. The tagged fish must meet these requirements for a prize:

- 1) Lake trout must have a PIT tag-**do not** remove any tag before entering. If it is a recent/fresh tag scar and an old tag number-it may be disqualified.
- 2) Tag number must match the number of one recorded by fisheries staff-list at Blue Bay
- 3) The fish **must be** caught during one of the days of the Mack Days contest-ends May 14th
- 4) The angler must be 18 years of age and older and be entered in the event to win a prize over \$600
- 5) **New-Large lake trout over 30" with the adipose fin clipped will be scanned for a tag. If tagged the angler will receive the dollar amount associated with the tag number. NO LOTTERY TICKET WILL BE AWARDED. South half of Flathead Lake only.**

H. Bucket Competition-3/31, 4/22, & 5/7 weigh in your 4 heaviest lake trout under 30" as well as your other lake trout for entry-must be marked when entered-one weight per boat or shore angler team-\$200-daily prize-points given and totaled at conclusion of event for 1st-\$300, 2nd-\$200, & 3rd-\$100-tie broken by weight.

I. Tues, Wed, Thurs-Bonus and tagged fish days only. Separate totals will be recorded for these days. Totals of your fish counts will be used for bonus amounts at the end of the event. Totals will be kept separate until then. NO Lottery tickets, Captains, Yeti, or 70 & Over tickets on these days (bonus and tagged fish only).

J. Pick up times: Please respect the schedules of work crews and do not submit fish after dark or after 9:00P.M.

Blue Bay (event headquarters): 9:00 A.M.-9 P.M. or Dark if earlier,

Somers Boat Access: 3-4:30 P.M.--Wayfarers 5:00-5:30 P.M.- except May 14th

Big Arm Boat Ramp: 5:00-5:30 except May 14th

Salish Point Boat Ramp: 6:00-6:30 p.m. except May 14th

May 14th -all fish are to be turned in at Blue Bay by 3:00

Fish fry will begin at 3:00 and the ticket drawing will begin at 4:00 at Blue Bay.

6. Anglers may enter the daily limit of 100-(only fish caught by that angler-no pooling of fish will be allowed in any category).

All fish submitted for donation must have been put on ice and kept at or below 41 degrees.

7. Event officials will mark each fish if they are not donated. **Fish submitted for tickets must be caught on the day of the submittal.**
8. Prize winners are responsible to cover all taxes and fees associated with prize winnings.
9. **Know the difference between bull trout and lake trout. Bull trout and Westslope cutthroat trout are to be released immediately as they are species of Special Concern under the Endangered Species Act.**
10. We reserve the right to photograph entries, reproduce photos for publicity purposes, and retain all photo rights.
11. Do not crowd in on other anglers in a fishing area. Other anglers may be casting out with heavy lures. Everyone knows there are **no reserved fishing areas** on the lake but you need to **keep a safe distance**-greater than double the average casting distance from other boats, anchors, lines, etc.-respect another anglers fishing space even when observing. We ask that Mack Days anglers be good sportsmen, helpful, and courteous. **Rude and aggressive behavior toward others will be**

grounds for disqualification. Written complaints must be made within 24 hours of incident. We have fishing tips and guide books available we will gladly provide them to contestants that need fishing information.

12. **If trolling** keep a distance from anglers who are jigging with anchors set and lines out. Anchor lines can reach out there-don't troll over the lines and get caught in them. **If you are going to be jigging-watch to see where boats are trolling-don't set down in their trolling path.** Keep off their path or the route they are trolling in. Look for markers that a troller may have set out.

(Largest Lake Trout Contest Rules)-must be over 24#'s & over 36 inches

Lake trout are a highly abundant predator that has shaped the fish community in Flathead Lake. The goal of the State and Tribes, developed with extensive public involvement, is to reduce the numbers of lake trout to benefit other species in the lake, especially native trout. Specifically, the direction of the management plan is to reduce small lake trout while continuing to protect large lake trout. This direction is the result of a practical compromise. The overall reduction of numbers is intended to reduce predation by lake trout on other species. The protection of large fish is a compromise to maintain quality-fishing opportunities for lake trout. The end result should be a more diverse fishery. This event is conducted to be consistent with the management goals.

You must follow the guidelines listed below:

1. Entrants should have a cell phone and **scales** to weigh the fish. Call between 9:00 AM & dark or 9:00 PM Friday-Sunday.
2. Anglers are asked to check the www.mackdays.com web site before each day of angling or phone us to determine the weight of the leading fish. The heaviest fish over 24#'s and 36 inches at the end of the contest will win.
3. When a large fish is caught, call **406-270-3386** to determine the size of the current heaviest fish. We will arrange a place to meet you at a dock or ramp location or ask that you bring it in. If you cannot contact us and you are near to our location-bring the fish to Blue Bay. Anglers may keep the fish for personal use, but will be encouraged to release the larger fish.
4. **This category will end at dark or 9:00-which ever comes first- Saturday May 13th.**
5. Anglers are encouraged to have and use a live well, large cooler, or net to hold fish until measured. Handle large fish with care. Try and reduce injury from handling. Hold fish under the jaw; not by the gills.

Boat Washing Requirements-please read

New for Spring 2017 – Requirement to certify your boat as mussel-free to participate in Mack Days

Recent discovery of zebra mussels in central Montana has elevated the need to reduce the risk of infestation in Flathead Lake. This is a very serious concern. Starting in 2017, all boats used in Mack Days must provide proof of certification from an authorized inspector before participation in the contest. The inspection form must be presented with your contest application. Fish will not be accepted from anglers fishing from un-certified boats. Numerous inspection stations and times will be available prior to the event. We are organizing the information and personnel to implement this program and will announce details on the website and in other outlets as soon as planning is complete.

Aquatic nuisance species are a real threat to our aquatic resources. Aquatic nuisance species have few natural predators or control agents. They can reproduce, grow rapidly, and threaten the ecological stability, diversity and abundance of native species. Aquatic nuisance species also threaten commercial, agricultural, aquaculture, and recreational activities. Boats, trailers, and equipment that come in contact with aquatic systems easily transport these exotics. Aquatic nuisance species can be introduced into new areas by the movement of water; they can also be transported to new sites attached to boats, trailers, and equipment. Many of the invasive species that threaten Montana have the ability to withstand extended periods of time out of the water or in small amounts of water making their transport to new locations possible. All participants in Montana fishing tournaments are asked to cooperate with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in the tournament requirements that all boats be washed prior to launching. Ensuring that all boats are clean of any plants or animals prior to being launched will help to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Report any sightings to the National Hotline: 1-877-786-7267.

Boat safety & ramp recommendations:

- Please wait your turn-if there is a line at the boat ramp you need to wait and take your turn just like everyone else.
- **Have your boat ready before getting to the ramp area.** Take off the cover, load items you need, do all of your safety checks **before getting to or backing down the ramp.** After unloading your boat from the trailer move it to the other side of the dock so others can unload-then park your vehicle. **Don't sit on the ramp** area after pulling out of the water
- Be courteous, and helpful if needed. Be willing to help out when others need advice or assistance.
- Winds on Flathead Lake can make loading impossible at times: don't panic-if you come in and can't get loaded especially if you are alone-**pull into the marina area** to wait out the storm-get behind an island or in a calmer bay area. If you need our help don't hesitate to ask-if you have an emergency out on the water-call 911 first, then call. 406-270-3386. we do have a marine band radio at Blue Bay-call "Blue Bay Base".
- There is a fee for use of the Blue Bay boat ramp and parking area and campground. Telephone 406-883-2888 or 406-253-3813 for information about boat ramp and camping fees.

Questions:

Barry Hansen
Cindy Bras-Benson

406-883-2888 Ex. 7282
406-883-2888 Ex. 7294 or Cell #270-3386