

# MACK DAYS EVENT RULES

2018 Fall Mack Days-45 days

**Dates:** September 21<sup>st</sup> -November 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Fall 2018 – Requirement to certify your boat as mussel-free to participate in Mack Days.

Recent discovery of quagga 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 from out of the Flathead Basin area must provide proof of certification from an authorized inspector before participation in the contest. Fish will not be accepted from anglers fishing from un-certified boats. If during the event, a boat is taken out of the Flathead Basin, it is required to be re-inspected. We will be available to do inspections at Blue Bay if needed.

1. All anglers must have a state and/or tribal fishing license; 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, CSKT Tribal, and Montana FWP regulations.

**SPIRIT OF THE RULE:** *It is the intention of this event to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Unsportsmanlike conduct 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 them, the sport of fishing and help sustain a successful Mack Days contest well into the future.*

2. No pooling of fish is allowed, meaning all participants must report only the fish they catch themselves. We welcome all forms of angler-assistance during the contest, but make exceptions for those anglers vying for the top prize categories-Top Ten, Ladies, Youth, & Over 70. Specifically for the “top anglers”, the intent is that the contest be an individual competition rather than a team competition. We cannot police this highly competitive category adequately and must rely on those anglers to respect the principle of fair competition. The rewards in this category 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 adult and youth 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. This means that one person in the boat will not be allowed to continually have a high majority of the catch counted in his/her name. Keeping separate coolers is recommended.

ICE, ICE, ICE,-all fish donated to the contest are required to be kept on ice. Ice should be layered in coolers. Please keep coolers cleaned.

Fish should be at 40 degrees internally when donated. We will be checking the temperatures of the fish. Each angler has the option of donating their fish to be processed or keeping their fish for their own use. Warm fish will not be accepted for donation. Live-well water pumped in from the surface of the lake is not cool enough to keep the fish at that temperature (40 degrees).

3. 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 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.

4. Prizes will be awarded in the following amounts: Youth qualify for the lottery-up to \$600, top ten, & other prizes. **Friday-Sunday-24 days**
  - A. **Teens (13-17 years of age):** 1<sup>st</sup>-\$200, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$150, 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$75. 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
  - B. **Youth 12 & under-**1<sup>st</sup>-\$100, 2<sup>nd</sup>- \$75, & 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$50.If you are a top ten angler you do not win a youth prize. Friday-Sunday
  - C. **Golden Angler (70 & over)** \$200 & \$100 determined by totals-if you are a top ten angler you do not qualify+(2) \$50 drawings-**Fri-Sun.**
  - D. **Top 10 Angler’s-15/24** best days count-\$800-\$300-last day is a separate day-**Fri-Sun only.** If an angler does not have the required number of days for an average he can opt to take 0’s to get an average.
  - E. **Ladies Only-**\$300, \$200, \$100, \$100, \$100-determined by ladies totals-**Fri-Sun only** top ten angler’s do not qualify.
  - F. **Large Lake Trout Category-** (See rules for large lake trout entries.)**Prize - 1<sup>st</sup>-\$500 (Must be over 36” & 24#’s to qualify in this category.)** **Fri-Sun**
  - G. **Weekend Prizes-5@\$100 per weekend- Fri-Sun-no limit per angler /category/must have fish entries-announced weekly.** Drawings will be witnessed by at least two people.
  - H. **Captain’s Prizes-\$250** -enter by giving us the name or number of your boat or the boat you were boarded on when you enter your catch-4 prizes to boat captains **Fri-Sun/must have entered fish.**
  - I. **Smallest Lake Trout--2 (\$250) prizes** (must be hooked & identifiable) **Fri-Sun**
  - J. **Early Registration-\$200**-qualify by entering before Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>-one prize. We continue to accept entries up until the last day of the event-must enter at least one fish in the event.

- K. **Cash Awards: drawing for cash prizes-\$1,000-\$500 up to \$21,000-27-drawings in the Fall Event. Limit of 2 cash prizes/angler in the lottery style drawing/category-one ticket for every fish under 30" up to 15 days-then you must surpass your average to receive additional tickets. All it takes is one fish to win.**
- L. **Merchandise prizes-you must be present to win-limit 2/angler.**
- M. **Bucket Competition-10/5, 10/20, & 11/4 weigh in your 4 heaviest lake trout under 30"-must be marked when coming in-one weight per boat or shore anglers-team must be on one boat-\$200-daily prize-points given and totaled at conclusion of event for 1<sup>st</sup>-\$250, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$150, & 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$100-tie broken by weight.**
- N. **SPECIAL-YETI Cooler-1 ticket for every 10 lake trout entries Tues-Sun**
- O. **NEW-Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only- turn in your lake trout before 6:00-NEW-8-\$50 lottery drawings-plus turn in live lake trout to a tagging boat during the day and receive tickets for a special lottery drawing for (2) \$500 prizes and Yeti cooler tickets 1-10 entries-21 days**

5. **Bonuses -Your total at the end of the 45 days determines your bonus. Every day counts for the bonus:**

0-10 lake trout=\$0, 11-30=\$35, 31-60=\$75, 61-100=\$125, 101-150=\$210, 151-200=\$290, 201-250=\$380, 251-300=\$465, 301-350=\$570, 351-400=\$675, 401-450=\$765, 451-500=\$875, 501-550=\$995, 551-600=\$1,120, 601-650=\$1,250, 651-700=\$1,420, 701-750=\$1,630, 751-800=\$1,940, 801-850=\$2,270, 851-900=\$2,625, 901-950=\$3,000, 951-1000=\$3,400, 1001-1050=\$3,750, 1051-1100=\$4,035, 1101-1150=\$4,275, 1151-1200=\$4,700, 1201-1250=\$4,900, 1251-1300=\$5,100, 1301-1350=\$5,300 & up

- 6. Other Prizes: **LAST DAY-November 11th-\$200, \$150, \$100 plus heaviest lake trout under 30"-1<sup>st</sup>-\$200 & 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$100-your count for this day will be added to bonuses & tagged fish award.**

- 7. **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. All adipose fin clipped lake trout will be scanned with an electronic reader by staff at Blue Bay when fish are turned in at the check-in stations. Background: over 6,000 lake trout have been tagged & adipose fin clipped at different locations in Flathead Lake by CSKT & MFWP fisheries staff. There will be lake trout with tag values 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 or gill plate of any fish you have with a fin clip. PIT tags have been implanted beneath the skin in the lake trout. The tags are not visible. Anglers are responsible for the safe keeping of fish until scanned & identified.**

The winning fish must meet these requirements for a prize:

- 1) It must have a PIT tag-**do not** remove any tag before entering & or 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 45 days of the 2018 Fall Mack Days contest and entered the same day.
- 4) **An angler must be 18 years of age and older and be entered in the event to win a prize over \$600**
- 5) Large lake trout over 30" with the adipose fin clipped from the south end of Flathead Lake will be scanned for a tag. No lottery ticket will be awarded.

- 8. **All lake trout under 30" are accepted for entry for lottery prizes. No ticket for any fish over 30 inches.** Fish may be submitted at multiple locations. Please respect the schedules of work crews and do not submit fish after dark or after 9:00P.M- whichever comes first-Fri.-Sun. and 6:00 or dark Tues.-Thurs. Times will be posted during event if needed. **We are required to report to the proper authorities any bull trout mistakenly turned in-be sure of the ID of any fish.** Fish must be caught on the same day as submittal.

**Check in stations: New Changes-no fish pickup sites Tues-Thurs-all fish turned in at Blue Bay from 9:00 AM to 6:00 or before dark if earlier**

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

The following are subject to change-check the website before the event begins:

**Fri-, Sat, Sun.-Somers Boat Access: 3:30-4:30 P.M.--Wayfarers 5:00-5:30 P.M.- except Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>-subject to change**

**Fri-, Sat, Sun.-Big Arm Boat Ramp: 4:00-4:30--Salish Point Boat Ramp: 5:00-5:30 p.m. except November 11th**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> –all fish turned in at Blue Bay by 3:00-Fish fry will begin at 3:00 and the ticket drawing at 4:00 at Blue Bay.**

- 9. Anglers may enter the daily limit of 100 lake trout under 30" or 99 under 30 and 1 over 36" and over 24 #'s in the large fish category.
- 10. Event officials will put a permanent mark on each fish that anglers choose to keep rather than donating them.
- 11. Prize winners are responsible for all taxes and fees associated with prize winnings.
- 12. Know the difference between bull trout and lake trout. Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout are to be released immediately as cutthroat are species of Special Concern and bull trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- 13. You are asked to follow all U.S. Coast Guard Boating Regulations. We recommend having a cell phone or Marine Band Radio on board. Keep phones in a dry area and batteries charged. PFD's/life jackets do you no good if they are not on your back when you need them. Make sure someone knows when you expect to be off the water. Be aware of weather conditions at all times. **Practice the three C's-Caution, Courtesy, and Common Sense.**
- 14. We reserve the right to photograph entries, reproduce photos for publicity purposes, and retain all photo rights.

15. **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 sportsman, helpful, and courteous.
16. **Rude and aggressive behavior toward others will be grounds for disqualification.**
17. We have fishing tips and guide books available we will gladly provide them to contestants that need fishing information.
18. **If trolling** keep a distance from anglers who are jigging with anchors set and lines out. Anchor lines can reach a ways 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.

**19. (Largest Lake Trout Contest Rules)-must be over 24#'s & over 36 inches-no ticket for large fish over 30"**

**There are tagged lake trout over 30".** If the adipose fin is clipped, bring the fish in to be scanned-south half of Flathead Lake only. 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 lake trout population size while maintaining some 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 acceptance of some large fish in the population 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.** Fri-Sun may be entered any time before dark.
2. Anglers are asked to check the [www.mackdays.com](http://www.mackdays.com) web site before each day of angling or phone us to determine the weight of the leading fish. Anglers are encouraged to release large lake trout whose weight is clearly less than the weight of the leading fish currently in first place. The heaviest fish at the end of the contest will win.
3. When a large fish is caught, call [406-270-3386](tel: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. If you cannot contact us and you are near to our location-bring the fish to Blue Bay.
4. Anglers may keep the fish for personal use, but will be encouraged to release the larger fish.
5. This category will end Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>.
6. Lake trout entered in this category must weigh more than 24#'s.
7. 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 to reduce injury from handling. Hold fish under the jaw; not by the gills.

**Boat safety & ramp recommendations:**

- Please wait your turn-if there is a line at the 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. 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
- There is a fee for use of the Blue Bay boat ramp and parking area. Daily fee is \$10 and yearly fee is \$60 with a recreation permit and fishing stamp in your possession. Telephone 406-883-2888 or 406-253-3813-Wildland Recreation for information about boat ramp fees or camping area fees.

**Questions about Mack Days:**

Barry Hansen

406-883-2888 Ex. 7282

Cindy Bras-Benson

406-883-2888 Ex. 7294 or Cell #270-3386- during the event

**Boat Washing Requirements-please read**

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.