

## MACK DAYS EVENT RULES

**2019 Spring Mack Days-March 15<sup>th</sup>-May 12<sup>th</sup> 51 fishing days**

**Friday, Saturday, & Sunday-competitive Mack Days for the lottery, prizes, tagged fish and bonuses-ends May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-will be bonus days, Yeti tickets, 8-\$50 drawings, and tagged fish only**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> is a separate day with separate prizes from \$300-\$100 and largest fish under 30"**

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

**AIS requirements will be announced when finalized. Report any sightings to the National Hotline: 1-877-786-7267.**

Your best defense is always WASH, CLEAN, AND DRY when moving your boat and trailer to any area  
INCLUDING all equipment, lines, anchors, live wells, etc.

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.

**Be sure and read #11 and #12-there have been issues over this in the past-please pay attention.**

1. **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.
  
2. **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.
  
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, 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.
  
4. **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):** 1<sup>st</sup>-\$200, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$150, 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$75, 4<sup>th</sup>-\$50, & 5<sup>th</sup>-\$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-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. 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-35 prizes-\$1,000 to \$450  
Last day is a separate day for cash prizes-but will count for bonuses and tagged fish.
  - 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  | \$1075  | 1101-1150 | \$4,350 | 1701-1750 | \$7,825  | 2301-2350 | \$11,900 |
| 11-30     | \$35     | 551-600  | \$1,230 | 1151-1200 | \$4,700 | 1751-1800 | \$8,135  | 2351-2400 | \$12,300 |
| 31-60     | \$75     | 601-650  | \$1,400 | 1201-1250 | \$4,960 | 1801-1850 | \$8,455  | 2401-2450 | \$12,675 |
| 61-100    | \$135    | 651-700  | \$1,575 | 1251-1300 | \$5,225 | 1851-1900 | \$8,775  | 2451-2500 | \$13,050 |
| 101-150   | \$210    | 701-750  | \$1,800 | 1301-1350 | \$5,500 | 1901-1950 | \$9,100  | 2501-2550 | \$13,440 |
| 151-200   | \$290    | 751-800  | \$2040  | 1351-1400 | \$5,775 | 1951-2000 | \$9,440  | 2551-2600 | \$13,830 |
| 201-250   | \$380    | 801-850  | \$2,270 | 1401-1450 | \$6,050 | 2001-2050 | \$9,775  | 2601-2650 |          |
| 251-300   | \$465    | 851-900  | \$2,625 | 1451-1500 | \$6,330 | 2051-2100 | \$10,100 | 2651-2700 |          |
| 301-350   | \$570    | 901-950  | \$3,000 | 1501-1550 | \$6,620 | 2101-2150 | \$10,475 | 2701-2750 |          |
| 351-400   | \$675    | 951-1000 | \$3,400 | 1551-1600 | \$6,920 | 2151-2200 | \$10,825 | 2751-2800 |          |

|         |       |           |         |           |         |           |          |           |  |
|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|--|
| 401-450 | \$785 | 1001-1050 | \$3,750 | 1601-1650 | \$7,210 | 2201-2250 | \$11,175 | 2801-2850 |  |
| 451-500 | \$925 | 1051-1100 | \$4,035 | 1651-1700 | \$7,515 | 2251-2300 | \$11,550 | 2851-2900 |  |

**You must be present for merchandise drawings that last day of the event.**

**E. Large Lake Trout Category-** (See rules for large lake trout entries.) Fri-Sun-ends May 11<sup>th</sup> enter before dark or 9:00 each day  
**Prize-- 1<sup>st</sup>-\$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-**\$100 x 5/ weekend-9 weeks-no limit. **Fri-Sun ends Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Early Registration-**\$200-qualify by entering before March 13<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Boat captain-person in charge/control of the boat-have to enter at least one lake trout

**Smallest Lake Trout--**2 (\$250) prizes (-**must be hooked**) ends on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>

**Golden Angler-**(70 & over) \$200 & \$100-by fish totals. If you are a top ten angler you do not qualify-ends May 11<sup>th</sup>

**Top 10 Angler's-**18/26 best days count Fri-Sun-**\$800-\$300- ends May 11<sup>th</sup> -last day-May 12<sup>th</sup> is a separate day-**

**Ladies Only-**\$300, \$200, \$100, \$100, \$100-determined by ladies totals. If you are a top ten angler you do not qualify-ends May 11<sup>th</sup>

**SPECIAL-YETI Cooler-**1 ticket for every 10 lake trout entries-ends May 11<sup>th</sup>

**LAST DAY-May 12th-**\$300, \$200, \$100 x 2 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 awards but not for any other awards-all other awards except tagged fish and last day awards end on May 11<sup>th</sup> .

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

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 the same day as entered during one of the days of the Mack Days contest-ends May 12<sup>th</sup>
- 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.**
- 6) **South half of Flathead Lake only-it is not legal to harvest lake trout 30-36" on the north half of the lake.**

**H. Bucket Competition-3/29, 4/20, & 5/5** 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 1<sup>st</sup>-\$300, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$200, & 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$100-tie broken by weight.

**I. Tues, Wed, Thurs-Bonus-6 \$50 drawings-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.

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

Subject to change-

**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.- Fri-Sun only-except May 12<sup>th</sup> subject to change**

**Big Arm Boat Ramp: 5:00-5:30 Fri-Sun only- except May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Salish Point Boat Ramp: 6:00-6:30 p.m. Fri-Sun only- except May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> -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.**

**5. Anglers may enter the daily limit of 100-**(only fish caught by that angler-no pooling of fish will be allowed in any category). **North end restricted to 99 under 30 and 1 over 36 inches or 100 under 30 inches. South end 100 lake trout. NO tickets for fish 30 or more inches.**

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

6. Event officials will mark each fish if they are not donated. **Fish submitted for tickets must be caught on the day of the submittal.**
7. Prize winners are responsible to cover all taxes and fees associated with prize winnings.
8. **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.**
9. We reserve the right to photograph entries, reproduce photos for publicity purposes, and retain all photo rights.

10. We ask that every angler driving or in charge of a boat be a responsible boat captain-always operate your boat in a safe manner and use good judgement. Especially when in launching areas be careful and respectful of other boaters and shore anglers or recreationalists.
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. Don't pull up and sit down right where someone is casting to. You will be too close and in their way.** We ask that Mack Days anglers be good sportsmen, helpful, and courteous. **Rude and aggressive behavior toward others will be grounds for disqualification. A written complaint 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. Use markers to mark your path if possible. Anchor and casting lines can reach out there a long way-don't troll over the lines and get caught in them. If there is more than one boat don't troll through the middle of the boats unless there is plenty of room. 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-from any area of Flathead Lake**

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. No lottery tickets for lake trout over 30".
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 11th.**
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 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