

MACK DAYS EVENT RULES

2020 Fall Mack Days- days

Dates: September 8th -November 15th

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

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. All watercraft entering the state of Montana crossing west over the Continental Divide into the Columbia River Basin must **provide proof of inspection from an authorized inspector before participation in the contest.** Vessels and equipment traveling into the Flathead Basin that have been used on waters outside of the Flathead Basin must be inspected at a department inspection station prior to launching within the Flathead Basin. **Fish entries 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 before re-entering the contest.** 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.

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 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 Twenty, Ladies, & Over 70 and Youth prizes. 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 especially angler identification of tagged fish and fish that are not legal to harvest.**

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 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-30 days**
 - A. Teens (13-17 years of age): 1st-\$200, 2nd-\$150, 3rd-\$75. If you are a top ten angler or top lady angler you do not win a youth category prize-you choose the category. Youth 17 & under are encouraged to have an adult on board when fishing from a boat.
 - B. Youth 12 & under-1st-\$100, 2nd- \$75, & 3rd-\$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-**chosen from all of the 70 & Over entries-Fri-Sun.**
 - D. **Top 20 Angler’s-18/30** best days count-\$800-\$300-**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 or must choose category.
 - F. **Large Lake Trout Category-** (See rules for large lake trout entries.)**Prize - 1st-\$500 (Must be over 36” & 20#’s to qualify in this category.)** **Fri-Sun**
 - G. **Weekend Prizes-10@\$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. 4th-one prize-must enter at least one fish in the event. We continue to accept entries up until the last day of the event-
- K. **Cash Awards: drawing for cash prizes-\$1,000-\$400 up to \$23,000-32-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 (Fri-Sun) days-then you must surpass your average to receive additional tickets.
- L. **Merchandise prizes-you must be present to win-limit 2/angler –no merchandise prizes-cash prizes instead**
- M. **Bucket Competition-9/18, 10/10, 11/8** weigh in your 4 heaviest lake trout under 30"- **PLEASE have them marked when checking 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 1st-\$250, 2nd-\$150, & 3rd-\$100-tie broken by weight.
- N. **SPECIAL PRIZE**(to be determined)-1 ticket for every 10 lake trout entries Tues-Thurs and Fri-Sun-separate prizes
- O. **Monday-Thursday only- turn in your lake trout before 6:00-6-\$50 and 2-\$100 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 plus cooler tickets-1 for every 10 lake trout entries-39 days**

5. Safety is our most important issue for everyone. Please practice all social distancing guidelines.

Protocol for turning in fish at designated locations: 1) only one person at a time to turn in fish 2) anglers bring their cooler to vehicle and count their catch out loud into Tribal container 3) staff will confirm the count and record the catch 4) when angler is done, angler steps back and next angler moves in place 5) there will be no contact between anglers and staff and no tickets exchanged, the drawings will be done electronically at the end of the contest.

- 6. **Tagged Lake Trout Category-Mon.-Sun. (1)\$10,000, (2)\$5,000, & (5)\$1000 –plus** over 9,000 \$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 9,000 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 angler's 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.** There are tagged lake trout over 30". They may be turned in if harvested from the south half of Flathead Lake-no lottery tickets are given for any lake trout over 30". It is illegal to keep a lake trout in the slot-30" to 36" on the north half of Flathead Lake.

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 73 days of the 2020 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.
7. **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-which ever 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. You are responsible for knowing or learning 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.

Check in stations: Mon-Thurs-9-6 only at Blue Bay-subject to change
Fri-Sun-Blue Bay (event headquarters): 9-9 or dark whichever comes first
 The following are subject to change-check the website before the event begins:
Fri-Sun-Somers Boat Access: 3:30-4, Wayfarers 4:30-5
Fri-Sun-Big Arm Boat Ramp: 4:30-5, Salish Point-5:30-5:45

- 8. Anglers are limited to 100 lake trout under 30" or 99 under 30 and 1 over 36". (Largest lake trout rules #18)
- 9. Event officials will put a permanent mark on each fish that anglers choose to keep.
- 10. Prize winners are responsible for all taxes and fees associated with prize winnings.
- 11. 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, Courtesv, and Common Sense.**
- 12. We reserve the right to photograph entries, reproduce photos for publicity purposes, and retain all photo rights.

13. **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. Watch another angler's pattern for casting before moving too close-**do not sit your boat down in their casting area.**

14. Rude and aggressive behavior toward other anglers or staff will be grounds for disqualification.

15. Fishing tips and guide books are available we will gladly provide them to contestants that need fishing information.

16. **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.

17. (Largest Lake Trout Contest Rules)-must be over 20#'s & over 36 inches-no ticket for large fish over 30"

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 only may be entered any time before dark.
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. 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 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 Sunday November 15th.
6. Lake trout entered in this category must weigh more than 20#'s and be 36 inches or longer.
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.