

## MACK DAYS EVENT RULES

2021 Spring Mack Days-March 19th-May 16<sup>th</sup> 59 fishing days

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday-competitive categories, lottery, top angler prizes, tagged fish and bonuses-ends May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Monday-Thursday-bonuses, Siberian cooler tickets, 2-\$100 and 8-\$50 drawings, and Tagged fish

### 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 have proof of inspection from an authorized inspector before participation in the contest. Spring Mack Days requires that everyone have current 2021 AIS boat inspections. 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.

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 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 #12 and #13-there have been issues over this in the past-please pay attention.

ICE, ICE, ICE,-all fish donated to the contest are required to be kept on ice. Ice should be layered over the fish in coolers. Please keep coolers clean. Rinse them out daily. Fish temperature should be no higher than 40 degrees internally when donated. We will be checking the temperatures of the fish. Anglers have 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 temperature (40 degrees) after the lake starts warming.

- 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", smallest lake trout, largest lake trout 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 and 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, smallest lake trout, largest lake trout, or youth categories. These are competitive categories and everyone competing for them must follow the same rules. AGAIN-- If there is more than one person reported in a boat fishing and several fish are entered under one name-we have to disqualify those anglers. Everyone needs to be on the same playing field-we want this to be fair and fun for everyone-please be respectful of the rules. We cannot and will not accept entries from anyone who will not follow the rules of competition. Fish are to be caught the same day as submittal.**
- 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. 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.**

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):** 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.
- 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” entered/donated-all it takes is one fish to win!**  
**Cash Awards:** drawing for cash prizes-Fri-Sun—Merchandise will be cash awards-limit of two/angler  
**Limit of 2 cash prizes/angler in the lottery drawing category-35 prizes-\$1,000 to \$400**

**D. Bonuses -Your total at the end of the 59 days determines your bonus. Mon.-Sun.-every day counts for the bonus: Mon.-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	\$13,955
251-300	\$465	851-900	\$2,625	1451-1500	\$6,330	2051-2100	\$10,100	2651-2700	\$14,635
301-350	\$570	901-950	\$3,000	1501-1550	\$6,620	2101-2150	\$10,475	2701-2750	\$15,045
351-400	\$675	951-1000	\$3,400	1551-1600	\$6,920	2151-2200	\$10,825	2751-2800	\$15,455
401-450	\$785	1001-1050	\$3,750	1601-1650	\$7,210	2201-2250	\$11,175	2801-2850	\$15,875
451-500	\$925	1051-1100	\$4,035	1651-1700	\$7,515	2251-2300	\$11,550	2851-2900	\$16,300

E. **Large Lake Trout Category-** (See rules for large lake trout entries.) Fri-Sun-ends May 16<sup>th</sup> enter before dark or 9:00  
**Prize-- 1<sup>st</sup>-\$500 (Must be over 36” & 20#’s to qualify in this category.)** Fri-Sun-no lottery ticket for any fish over 30”  
*You must be a participating angler in the event-turning in lake trout entries-not just a large fish entry.*

F. **Other Prizes: Weekend Prizes-\$100 x 5/ weekend-9 weeks-no limit. Fri-Sun**

**Early Registration-**\$200-qualify by entering before March 17<sup>th</sup>, and must enter at least one fish

**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 16<sup>th</sup> Boat captain-person in charge/control of the boat-must enter at least one lake trout

**Smallest Lake Trout--2 (\$250) prizes (-must be hooked) ends May 16<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 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Top 10 Angler’s-18 best days of possible 26 count Fri-Sun-\$900-\$450-11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-\$350-\$100- ends May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Ladies Only-**\$300, \$200, \$100, \$100, \$100-determined by ladies totals. If you are a top ten angler you do not qualify Fri-Sun-ends May 16<sup>th</sup>  
**SPECIAL-Siberian Cooler-**1 ticket for every 10 lake trout entries-Fri-Sun-ends May 16<sup>th</sup>

G. **Tagged Lake Trout Category-Mon-Sun (1) \$10,000, (2) \$5,000, & (5) \$1000 –plus over 9,000 \$100-\$500 are available.**

Background: **over 9,000** 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. 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.**
- 2) **Only CSKT tags are eligible**
- 3) Fish **must be** caught the same day as entered during one of the days of the Mack Days contest-ends May 16<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. Those 17 and under will only be rewarded \$100 up to \$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-it is not legal to harvest lake trout 30-36” on the north half of the lake.

H. **Bucket Competition-3/26, 4/17, & 5/2** weigh in your 4 heaviest lake trout under 30” -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. You must be a participating angler in the event with other lake trout entries. Fish are to be turned in same day as caught.

I. **Mon-Thurs-Bonus-8 \$50, 2-\$100-& 4-\$250 drawings, Siberian Cooler Tickets,-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. *Fish turn in time at Blue Bay before 6:00 PM.*

J. **Pick up and turn in times Fri-Sun: Please respect the schedules of work crews and do not submit fish after dark or after 9:00P.M. Subject to change.**

**Mon-Thurs only: all fish are turned in at Blue Bay before 6:00**

**Blue Bay (event headquarters): 10:00 A.M.-1/2 hr. after sunset or 9 P.M. whichever is earlier**  
**Somers Boat Access: 3:30-4:30 P.M.--Wayfarers 5:00-5:30 P.M.- Fri-Sun only-subject to change**  
**Big Arm Boat Ramp: 5:00-5:30 Fri-Sun only**  
**Salish Point Boat Ramp: 6:00-6:30 p.m. Fri-Sun only**

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). **North end restricted to 99 under 30 and 1 over 36 inches or 100 under 30 inches. South end 100 lake trout. NO ticket for any fish 30 or more inches.**  
**All fish submitted for donation must have been put on ice and kept at or below 40 degrees. Best to layer fish and ice.**
  7. Event officials will mark each fish that are retained by anglers. **Fish submitted for entry must be caught on the same day.**
  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 are to be released immediately.**
  10. We reserve the right to photograph entries, reproduce photos for publicity purposes, and retain all photo rights.
  11. **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. When in launching areas be careful and respectful of other boaters and shore anglers or recreationalists.**
- IMPORTANT-EVERY ANGLER NEEDS TO READ AND FOLLOW THE SUGGESTIONS BELOW:**
12. Do not crowd in on other anglers in a fishing area. Other anglers may be casting out with heavy lures-**do not move in and set your boat down right where someone is casting-move to a different area.** 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 all Mack Days anglers be good sportsmen, helpful, and courteous. **Rude and aggressive behavior toward anglers or staff will be grounds for disqualification.** **A written complaint must be made within 24 hours of an incident. Will be enforced and anglers may be disqualified.**
  13. **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 a long way-don't troll over the lines and get caught in them. If someone is casting-do not troll over area they are casting in.** 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.** We have fishing tips and guide books available we will gladly provide them to contestants that need fishing information.

**(Largest Lake Trout Contest Rules)-must be over 20#'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.

**You must follow the guidelines listed below:**

1. Entrants should have a cell phone and **scales** to weigh the fish. Call between 10:00 AM & dark or ½ hr. before sunset or 9:00 PM Friday-Sunday.
2. Anglers are asked to check the [www.mackdays.com](http://www.mackdays.com) web site before each day of angling or telephone us to determine the weight of the leading fish. The heaviest fish over 20#'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-must be caught on the day of the entry.
4. **This category will end at ½ hr. before sunset or 9:00-whichever comes first**
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.
- 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.
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**Questions about the contest:**

Barry Hansen  
Cindy Bras-Benson

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