



# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Combat Fishing Tournament WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019



## TOURNAMENT INFO

### INCLUDED IN YOUR REGISTRATION FOR THE ARMED SERVICES COMBAT FISHING TOURNAMENT IS:

- Optional bus transportation to and from Seward (JBER area only)
- An exclusive charter fishing experience with a professional charter service
- Weighing of one of your fish for prize opportunities
- A photo opportunity with you and your boat mates' catch
- Filleting and processing of your catch
- A banquet served by the American Legion
- Delivery of your fish to JBER

The following information details what to expect as a participant of the Combat Fishing Tournament. Final times and check-in locations will be attached to your boarding pass. **We recommend that you review this information carefully prior to registering for the event. Failure to read the following information could result in the loss of your registration fee, or in your ability to participate in the tournament.**

### GETTING THERE

During registration, you may elect to drive your POV, or reserve a seat on a bus if you are registering from the JBER area.

#### If You Elect to Take the Bus (JBER area only):

- Any changes to your bus seat reservation must be approved through the ASYMCA main office.
- No alcohol, firearms, or coolers are allowed on the bus.
- If you take the bus down, you are required to take the bus back. You will return after the end of the banquet and will arrive at approximately 2330 Wednesday evening.
- Bring your boarding pass, ID, and fishing license with you. You will not be allowed to board the bus without these items.

#### If you are Driving Yourself:

- It is your responsibility to arrive on time for check-in.
- Make sure that you park in an all-day parking spot so that you are not towed or ticketed. Be on the lookout for ASYMCA signs, as their presence may indicate the availability of free all-day parking for tournament participants.

### CHECKING IN AT THE DOCK

- **Please be one time.** The Skippers and crew will not wait for late-comers. If you do not arrive within the allotted window for check-in, your seat will be forfeited and a service member from the overflow line will go in your place.
- Your boarding pass, fishing license, and ID will be required during check-in at the Seward Dock, and must be kept on your person during fishing.
- Please find the line that corresponds with the boat name on your boarding pass. This is where you will check in. Once you have checked in, do not wander off—stay with your charter crew.
  - » **About your boarding pass:** Your boarding pass will be issued in PDF format to the email on record in your ASYMCA user account. If you do not have a user account, you will be prompted to create one during registration. Boarding passes will be issued the week of May 6, with all passes issued no later than May 10. Your boarding pass is not transferable or refundable, and your boat assignment is final.
- **Firearms and alcohol will not be permitted** on the charter boats.
- **Do not change boats**, or ask to change boats. It's illegal for the boat captain to have the wrong people on their boats. This is for your safety! If you're caught switching boats, you'll be ineligible to earn tournament prizes and will forfeit any fish caught.
- Tournament staff reserves the right to make changes to boat assignments and the corresponding manifest when necessary.

### CHARTER FISHING ETIQUETTE

- **Do NOT bring coolers, fishing poles, bait, or other fishing gear.** All necessary gear and bait is provided by the charter. Any fishing poles we see will be confiscated.
- Your charter crew has given up a day of business to participate in this event. Please respect their commitment by being

respectful, and following their rules. Their rules are established by the charter services for your safety, so if the Skipper feels your behavior could pose a risk on the water, they will not allow you to board their boat. Examples of behavior that can bar your participation include, but are not limited to: evidence of alcohol consumption; erratic or unsafe gestures or physical contact; brandishing a weapon; threatening language; blatant disregard of rules/authority; etc. Tournament organizers will NOT intervene in this decision, nor will they place you on another boat. A Skipper's decision is FINAL.

- The charter crew and skipper cannot accept tips during this event. The best way to thank them is with your respect, courtesy, and a glowing personal recommendation to anyone seeking a charter referral. Unit patches, challenge coins, or other small personal gifts are also acceptable (and cherished), but not expected.
- All tournament winners are selected by a random lottery, not by fish weight—and everyone will go home with a prize, even if they don't catch a fish. It is not needful to throw back fish that are legal sized. Remember that very large halibut are often poor eating, so please bear that in mind if you catch a legal-sized fish that is not as big as you had hoped for.

## RETURNING TO THE DOCK

- One of your fish will be weighed in front of Captain Jack's Fish Locker, and the weight will be recorded for the lottery. Only ONE of your fish will be weighed, so make sure you pick the lucky one. We ask that you please be patient as there is only one scale, and a lot of fish to weigh. Our volunteers will be going as fast as they can, and they will appreciate your patience and willingness to do what you can to make the process smoother. You can speed things up by having your fish picked out and ready before it's your turn at the scales.
- You and your fellow boat-mates will be photographed with all your fish once the weights have been recorded for your chosen fish. These photos are used to promote the Combat Fishing Tournament, and to thank our sponsors—which is deeply appreciated by the donors and sponsors who make this fishing trip a possibility. We would really appreciate you staying to get your group photo taken. **You will have an opportunity to have personal photographs taken at this time, but we ask that your friends, family, or volunteers wait until the ASYMCA's designated photographers have taken the photos they need.**
- Once your photo has been taken, your crew will fillet your fish. This is messy work after a long day of fishing, so please thank them for their hard work.
- **Please stay with your fish! After your fish has been filleted, it will be put into a tray for YOU to take to the Captain Jack's Fish Locker team for final processing and freezing.** These amazing volunteers will be working very hard to process the catch of over 200 fishermen. Again, please take a moment to thank them.
  - » **If you are from the Fairbanks area, please be sure to let the Captain Jack's crew know** so that they can have your fish ready to take home with you at the end of the day. Only service members from the Fairbanks or outlying areas will have their fish released at the end of the day.
  - » If you are from the Anchorage area, your fish will be processed and delivered to the ASYMCA Welcome Center on JBER-Elmendorf. Your fish will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, May 28th from 1300-1800. We apologize for this delay, but it takes time to process and freeze the large quantity of fish that are caught during the tournament, and it is simply not possible to accommodate same-day pickup unless you are from the Fairbanks area. **Please note that your fish must be picked up by 1800 on Tuesday, May 28th. Any fish not claimed will be donated.**
  - » **IMPORTANT NOTE: it is your responsibility to keep track of your fish until you bring it to Captain Jack's and provide their volunteers with the information they need to make sure you get your fish returned to you on pick-up day. Failure to see this process through to completion will result in your fish being considered abandoned. All abandoned fish will be donated.**
- Once you have turned your fish over to the crew of Captain Jack's, please remain in the area. Busses will be arriving at 1700 to shuttle you to the banquet at AVTEC. If you do decide to explore the area and find your own way to the banquet, we ask that you be there no later than 1730.

## EVENING BANQUET

- **Banquet attendance is mandatory.**
- The American Legion is putting together an amazing meal for you. If you have the opportunity, please thank them. They have done this every year since the inception of the Combat Fishing Tournament. Beer will also be available during the banquet.
- Prizes will be distributed during the banquet, and everyone will leave with a prize. These prizes have been provided by generous donors as a thank you for your service. **Prizes are for military tournament participants only.**
- If your family has come down to join you in Seward, please feel free to invite them to attend the banquet. We would be honored to have them there.
- We will be providing blank Thank You Cards on the tables. Please show your appreciation by filling one or two out to thank the donors, volunteers, boat crews, or dock crews for all their hard work. This event would not be possible without them. We will make sure that your thank you notes are sent to them.
- The banquet will wrap up at approximately 2100.
- Immediately following the banquet, busses will be ready to board for the return trip to Anchorage. If you are driving your POV, then please drive safely to your next destination.

## FISH PICK UP

- All fish will be flash frozen and delivered to JBER on Tuesday, May 28 in a refrigerated truck.
- You **MUST** pick up your fish at the ASYMCA office between 1300-1800 otherwise it will be donated. We do not have the space to store hundreds of pounds of halibut at our office, and will not be able to hold your fish beyond the allotted time. No pickups after 1800—No exceptions!
- If you are coming down from the Interior, you will be given your fish to take home the day of the tournament. You will need to have a cooler in your vehicle to keep the fish food-safe on your drive home. Do not bring the cooler on the boats!

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- **Bring heavy coats and waterproof gear. Dress in many layers.** It is ALWAYS much colder and wetter out on the water! The fastest way to ruin your day is to spend it wet and freezing out on the water. Make sure your boots are warm and waterproof, and that you bring gloves to keep your hands warm, too.
- You may bring a day pack with extras such as additional warm layers, snacks, nonalcoholic beverages, etc. Lunch will be provided for you on the boats, but if you have special dietary needs, please consider packing your own lunch or supplemental snacks. Ginger chews and ginger ale are also helpful items to pack, as ginger can help ease mild nausea.
- If you are prone to motion sickness, you may want to take some Dramamine. It's recommended you have Dramamine in your system well before you get on the boat. If you wait until you start to feel sick, it will be too late! Make sure to look for the non-drowsy version.
- If you are using your POV to get to Seward, bring some kind of alarm with you, and make sure you have some way to charge or power that alarm. There have been many incidents where one or two participants miss their boats because they fell asleep waiting for check in to start and failed to set an alarm, or their alarm did not go off due to a dead battery.
- If you are driving down from interior Alaska, or planning to drive a POV from the JBER area, we recommend considering one or more of the following safety tips:
  - » Give yourself plenty of time for the drive down and back. On a normal basis, it is approximately a 2-2.5 hour drive from Anchorage to Seward. The drive down may encounter road construction delays; and on the drive back, you may need to pull over to rest.
  - » The tournament is a very long day, and you will be tired. We don't want you to risk falling asleep behind the wheel on your return trip. We recommend that you carpool with other participants so that your group can take turns driving. If you can't carpool, be prepared to pull over for a power nap. It may take longer to get home, but getting home safe is the priority.
  - » Make sure you pack extra supplies such as food, water, blankets, and road safety gear in case of emergencies or unexpected delays.
  - » Seward is a great place for camping! If you're driving down, consider planning a camping weekend and drive down the evening before with plans to stay until at least Friday morning.
  - » If you drink during the banquet, **DO NOT** drive. Nominate a designated driver, or plan ahead to camp overnight and catch a ride to your camp site.
- We are delighted when our participants share their photos! If you plan to take photos and share them on social media, we'd love it if you tagged us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter @AKASYMCA, or hashtag #ASYCFT2019

## CANCELLATIONS

- **Registrations are final and non-refundable.**
- **If you are unable to attend for any reason—please notify us AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Your boarding pass is non-transferable, so please call 552-9622 to release your seat so that we can place a service member from the waiting list.
- If you fail to show and do not cancel, or send someone else in your place with your boarding pass, you will not be allowed to get a seat at next year's Tournament and any person holding a pass that does not belong to them will not be admitted.