



The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska COMBAT FISHING TOURNAMENT

19th Annual Combat Fishing Tournament | Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | Seward, Alaska

INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

- Boarding pass (must be picked up in person prior to event)
- An exclusive charter fishing experience with a professional charter service
- Tournament prize opportunities
- Filleting and processing of your catch
- Snacks and meals throughout the day
- Delivery of your fish to JBER (Anchorage area participants) and Ft. Wainwright (Fairbanks area participants)
- Official event swag

TRANSPORTATION TO SEWARD

Limited bus transportation is available from Anchorage to Seward on a first-come, first-served basis. Indicate on your registration if you would like a spot on the bus. Carpooling is encouraged.

BUS FROM ANCHORAGE

- The bus will depart from the Lowes parking lot, Muldoon Gate. Seating is limited. Please indicate during registration if you would like a seat on the bus.
- Check-in begins at 0145, departs at 0230.
- All bus riders must return on the bus. You will return after the post-fishing banquet. Expect to arrive back in Anchorage at approximately 2330.
- Please bring your boarding pass, ID and printed fishing license with you. You will not be allowed to board the bus without these items.

BOARDING PASS & EVENT ITINERARY

Boarding passes and full event itinerary must be picked up in person at your nearest ASYMCA Welcome Center (unless stationed at a remote location). Passes will be issued no later than May 12. You will need to show your military ID and printed fishing license at time of pickup. Your boarding pass is not transferable or refundable, and your boat assignment is final.

You will be emailed when your materials are ready. Passes must be picked up in person. You will need to show your military ID and printed fishing license at time of pickup.

POV & SEWARD HIGHWAY DRIVING REMINDERS

- Please arrive to Seward no later than 0500. It takes 3 hours to drive from Anchorage to Seward. It takes about 9 hours to drive from Fairbanks to Seward. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.
- Be sure to check 511 road conditions, and plan for incidentals.
- Be prepared for winding roads, sudden weather changes, wildlife crossings, and tourist traffic. Stay alert, drive at safe speeds, and give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination safely.
- **Adhere to the highway's speed limits.** The speed limit in the right lane is 55 mph; the left lane is 65 mph. Be alert in road construction areas. There may be lower speed limits, pilot cars, etc.
- Make sure you park in an all-day parking spot so you are not towed or ticketed. Be on the lookout for Armed Services YMCA signs to direct you to available free parking for tournament participants.
- POV drivers who arrive early have been known to sleep through boat departure. Please be sure to set an alarm and bring your charger so you don't miss out!
- **PARKING PASS REQUIRED.** A City of Seward parking pass is required for all POV drivers. Pick up with boarding pass.



CHECK-IN & DEPARTURE FROM DOCK

- Arrive on time. The Skippers and crew will not wait for late-comers. If you are late, your seat will be given to a service member on the wait list.
- Your boarding pass, **printed** fishing license, and military ID are required at check-in, and must be kept on your person while you fish.
- Once you have checked in, stay with your charter crew.
- **Proper gear (waterproof clothing, warm layers, etc.) is required.** Anyone unprepared will be denied boarding.

CHECK-IN SCHEDULE

0500–0520: Check in at Harbor Master's Dock in Seward, AK

0520: Seats given to stand-by anglers

0525: Boats leave the dock

0530: Tournament begins

RETURN TO DOCK

- Crew will determine if your catch will be entered in the tournament to be weighed and recorded.
- Please take a moment for a group photo with your fellow boat-mates and all your fish.
- Your crew will fillet your fish, a messy job after a long day of fishing. Please thank the crew for their hard work.
- **Stay with your fish!** After your fish has been filleted, you will take them to the Captain Jack's Fish Locker team for final processing and freezing. 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. Failure to see this process through will result in your fish being considered abandoned. All abandoned fish will be donated.
- After you have turned your fish over to Captain Jack's crew, make your way to the evening banquet. A shuttle will be running multiple trips from the docks to the banquet. Parking is also available. If you do decide to explore the area, we ask that you be there no later than 1730.
- **Processing Your Fish:** If you choose not to have your fish processed by Captain Jack's, you are responsible for bag ice and coolers.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CATCH

FAIRBANKS-AREA PARTICIPANTS

Captain Jack's crew will have a list of Fairbanks-area participants. They will box your fish in double insulated boxes, which will be shipped to Anchorage and flown to Fairbanks for pick-up. Anticipated pick up date, Wednesday, May 28, from 1400–1700 at the Fort Wainwright Bargain Shop. Any fish not picked up during this time will be donated.

ANCHORAGE-AREA PARTICIPANTS

Fish destined for the Anchorage area will be flash frozen and delivered to the Armed Services YMCA Welcome Center on JBER-Elmendorf. Your fish will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, May 27, from 1400–1700. Any fish not picked up during this time will be donated.

MEALS & SNACKS

If you have any specific dietary accommodations, you may bring your own food, or let us know in advance.

- **Breakfast:** Coffee and doughnuts will be available for all on the dock at check-in.
- **Lunch:** Box lunch of sandwiches, chips, snacks and bottled drinks will be available on board.
- **Dinner:** BBQ-style meal will be served prior to departure. Families welcome if they are joining you in Seward.

CHARTER FISHING ETIQUETTE

- Your charter crew members have volunteered their resources for this event. Please respect their commitment by being respectful and following their rules.
- The charter crew and skipper cannot accept tips during this event. The best way to thank them is by being a courteous passenger and by recommending them to anyone seeking a charter referral. Unit patches, challenge coins or other small personal gifts are also acceptable ways to thank the crew.
- Thank-you cards will be available following your charter, and we ask that you write at least one.

DOS & DON'TS

DO:

- **DO:** Dress in layers! It is **ALWAYS** much colder and wetter out on the water! Bring heavy coats, waterproof gear, gloves, a baseball hat, a warm hat, waterproof boots and sunglasses. Anyone not in proper gear at check in may be denied boarding.
- **DO:** Bring a day pack with dry clothes, an extra pair of dry socks, snacks (no alcohol please) and any medication you may require. **Layers are essential!**
- **DO:** Follow boat rules. The charter boat rules are in place to keep you safe. If the Skipper feels your behavior could pose a risk on the water, they will not allow you to board their boat. Tournament staff will not intervene. 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, and/or blatant disregard of rules/authority.
- **DO:** Share your photos! We are delighted when our participants share their pictures from the day! Please tag @AKASYMCA on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and use our hashtag #ASYMCACFT. Not on social? Be on the lookout for a photo sharing link.
- **DO:** Carpool. You will be tired at the end of the tournament. You are encouraged to carpool so you can take turns driving. If you decide to consume alcoholic beverages you will not be permitted to drive.
- **DO:** Talk with your charter team and ask questions! They want to help you love Alaska and fishing as much as they do!



DON'T:

- **DON'T:** Change boats or give away your seat. Please understand changing boats is not allowed. Do not change boats or ask to change boats. It is illegal for the boat captain to have the wrong people on their boats. If you are caught switching boats, you will be ineligible to earn tournament prizes and will forfeit any fish caught. Tournament staff reserves the right to make changes to boat manifests when necessary.
- **DON'T:** Bring prohibited items. Firearms, alcohol, coolers, fishing poles, bait, or other fishing gear are not allowed on the boats. All necessary gear and bait is provided by the charter. Prohibited items will be confiscated.
- **DON'T:** Drive if you're impaired. Seward is a great place to camp! If you are too tired after the tournament, if you have consumed alcohol, or if you feel unwell after a day on the water, please camp overnight.
- **DON'T:** Be a no show. No-show participants will be reported to leadership and be restricted from future event participation.
- **DON'T:** Bring any bananas! Bananas on boats are bad luck, and our charter fleet takes this rule VERY seriously!



QUESTIONS?

Contact events@akasymca.org or call 907-552-9622 with questions. More information can be found online at alaska.asymca.org or by scanning the QR code to the right.

