



ARMED SERVICES YMCA



The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska

COMBAT FISHING TOURNAMENT

20th Annual Combat Fishing Tournament | Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | 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 and Ft. Wainwright
- Official event swag
- Round-trip coach bus transportation

TRANSPORTATION TO SEWARD

During registration, you'll choose between driving your POV or reserving a bus seat. Bussing is provided by ASYMCA and seats are available until full. **Please bring your boarding pass, military ID, and printed fishing license with you. You will not be allowed to board the bus without these items.**

BUS FROM FAIRBANKS

- Departs May 19 (early a.m.) and returns May 21 (p.m.).
- Transportation to and from Seward provided.
- Meals during official tournament activities are provided.
- Personal transportation and meals while in Seward are **NOT** included. Lodging is required and **NOT** provided. Special tournament rates available at Seward Military Resort. Soldiers qualifying for BOSS programs may be eligible for support.

BUS FROM ANCHORAGE

- The bus will depart from the Lowes parking lot, Muldoon Gate. Please indicate during registration if you'd like a seat on the bus.
- Check-in begins May 20 at 0145. Bus departs at 0200.
- All bus riders must return on the bus. You will return after the post-fishing banquet. Expect to arrive back in Anchorage at approximately 2200.



BOARDING PASS & EVENT ITINERARY

We will host a "Seating Assignment" day for friends wishing to fish together. Dates TBA. On this day, you must come in-person to ASYMCA offices with your full group to receive seat assignments, boarding passes, and event itineraries. Seats are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

All other participants will be assigned boats. **Boarding passes and event itineraries must be picked up in person at your nearest ASYMCA Welcome Center** (unless stationed at a remote location). You will be emailed when materials are ready. **Passes will be issued no later than May 11.** You will need to show your military ID and printed fishing license at time of pickup. Your boarding pass is not transferable or refundable. Boat assignments are final.

DRIVING YOUR POV

- Please arrive 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.
- Be sure to check 511 road conditions, and plan for incidentals.
- 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 Office in Seward, AK. Look for the large anchor.

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 1700.
- **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. Your fish will be boxed in double insulated boxes, shipped to Anchorage, and flown to Fairbanks for pick-up. Anticipated pick up date, Wednesday, May 27, from 1400–1700 at the Fort Wainwright Bargain Shop.

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 26, from 1400–1700.

See fish pickup cards for further details. Any fish not picked up during these times 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 tournament results and prizes. 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.
- **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!

REMINDERS

- Ensure all contact information is correct and complete. **We communicate primarily through email.** Be sure to include an email address you check regularly
- We also send tournament updates via text. **To opt in for SMS messaging, text ASYMCA to 54539.** The number you're texting from must match the primary number in your ASYMCA account.

DON'T:

- **DON'T:** Change boats or give away your seat. 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 brina.lynych@asymca.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

