

MONTANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION

The Montana Catfish Association was established in the spring of 2006. Our main objective is to promote the sport of catfishing and specifically catfish in the great state of Montana and the region.

Our mission is to: increase communication among catfish anglers, educate, improve and increase public access for all warm water fish. We will continue to work closely with Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks to further expand and maintain catfish ecosystems and habitat. Montana Cats fully promotes and encourages selective harvest and Catch Photograph Release on all big catfish.

Catfishing is a rapidly growing sport. Tackle, rod, reel and boat manufacturers can no longer ignore the Catfish angler. There are numerous professional/amateur Catfish tournaments held across the country. Montana Cats encourages everyone interested to compete in these tournaments. Catfish tournaments have added legitimacy to our sport as well as an increased knowledge of Catfish behavior and tendencies. We currently offer a four tournament Montana Cats championship circuit.

These tournaments and others around the state help us meet those objectives through increasing angler awareness and exposing people throughout the state, region and host communities on pertinent issues facing the Channel Catfish. All of our tournaments are OVER 100% payback. That means 100% CASH payback from entries and thousands of dollars in additional prizes. We're in it for the fishermen, communities and Channel Catfish. Welcome to the group!

STAY CONNECTED

Do you want to stay connected with current events and announcements of the Montana Catfish Association? Join our catfish discussion on our message board at www.montanacats.yuku.com or www.montanacats.com

Join our facebook group page **MONTANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION** and our four facebook tournament pages Yellowstone Challenge, Milk River Catfish Classic, NE Montana Monster Cat Roundup and the Missouri River Catfish Clash.

Also don't forget to fill in your email on the registration form for instant updates!

Yellowstone Challenge Sponsors



RS Jet Boat Anchors
Billings, MT
406-855-6554



thrivent

18th ANNUAL YELLOWSTONE CHALLENGE CATFISH TOURNAMENT



**YELLOWSTONE RIVER /Huntley, MT
MAY 11, 2024**

BOAT ANGLERS ONLY

**\$100 per Two-Person Team
\$100 Optional Side Pot ENTRY
100% CASH PAYBACK**

(Figures based on 60 team field)

1st PLACE- \$1300	6th PLACE- \$500
2nd PLACE- \$950	7th PLACE- \$400
3rd PLACE- \$750	8th PLACE- \$300
4th PLACE- \$650	9th PLACE- \$250
5th PLACE- \$600	10th PLACE- \$200

PLACES 11-15- PRIZES

SUMO CAT AWARD- \$100 & B'n'M ROD

Any questions or for more information Contact:
Brady @ (406) 230-1018 or Tyler @ (406) 544-9961
or visit us online at www.montanacats.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY: 5-10-24

SOCIAL..... 6:00-7:00 P.M.
Longbranch Bar & Casino, Ballantine, MT

CALCUTTA/RULES.....7:00-10:00 P.M.
Longbranch Bar & Casino, Ballantine, MT. 1
team member must be present to declare boat
ramp/rules meeting.

SATURDAY: 5-11-24

CHECK-IN.....8:30-9:45 A.M.
Teams will report to their respective boat ramps for
boat checks. Boat ramps are declared on Friday
night and cannot be changed once declared.

TAKE-OFF.....10:00 A.M.
Teams will be released in 4 heats at the river; after
boat checks and all teams are confirmed at their
prospective ramps.

WEIGH-IN.....5:00-6:00 P.M.
All teams **MUST CHECK IN** by this time or be
disqualified. Regardless if you have fish to weigh,
check in is mandatory for all teams. Weigh-ins will
be conducted at rivers edge at Captain Clark and/or
Voyagers Rest fishing access sites.

AWARDS CEREMONY.....7:00 P.M.
Following weigh-ins , cash, prizes, trophies, door
prizes, pictures. Invite your friends and family to
come enjoy the festivities at the Longbranch Bar
& Casino, Ballantine, MT.

**MONTANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION
2024 TOUR SCHEDULE**

May 11th: Yellowstone Challenge (Huntley,
MT)

June 1st: Milk River Catfish Classic (Glasgow,
MT)

July 20th: Monster Cat Roundup (Sidney,
MT)

August 17th: Missouri River Catfish Clash
(Williston, ND)

2024 YELLOWSTONE CHALLENGE RULES

Boundaries: West boundary: The Huntley Bridge - Fishing west of the
bridge will be prohibited. East boundary: Mouth of the Bighorn River
near Bighorn, MT.

Limits: The limit is FIVE catfish per team. The total weight of all your
catfish will determine who wins the tournament.

Catch and Release: All of the catfish caught during the tournament
hours will be released back into the Yellowstone River.

Weigh-In: will begin at the weigh in station at exactly 6:00 P.M. If you
have not arrived you will be disqualified. Fish **MUST** be alive!!!! All
dead fish will be discarded and not weighed. Tournament committee
will determine weather a fish has been tampered with, altered in any-
way, or caught on a setline and will disqualify them if needed.

STRINGERS ARE NOT ALLOWED. ALL fish must be kept in a well
aerated cooler, system to ensure proper fish health. All fish determined
to have been kept on stringer, will result in disqualification.

Fishing Hours: Contestants can only fish during tournament hours. Pre
-fishing is allowed up until Friday May 10th at 6:00 p.m. Tournament
Hours are 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., May 11th.

Bait: Any LEGAL bait is allowed during tournament hours.

Rods: Two rods per person (in water) two hooks per line MAX.

State and Local Ordinances: All state and/or local ordinances will be
enforced. Violations will result in disqualification.

Identification: Team ID must be worn and visible at all times. Teams
are required to place team number stickers on boats in a visible location
as to be easily identified by security boats. Fail to do so will result in
disqualification.

Boat Only Regulations: ---- Each team will be required to list a boat
description. It **MUST** be a gas powered motorized boat. During official
pre-tourney meeting all boat teams must declare a public launch site.
Changes on this declaration may be made up until the beginning of our
rules meeting at 7 P.M. Failure to adhere to your declaration will result
in disqualification. Boat teams are allowed to also exit boat and fish
from shore with these conditions– Team members must remain
within 100 yards downstream and 100 yards upstream of their vessel.
This makes a total of 200 yards of shoreline to fish at any time during
tournament hours. This clearly does not apply if your team is fishing at
the confluence of the Bighorn River or at the Huntley Diversion Dam.
Teams must stay within tournament boundaries regardless of this rule.
Specifically when a team exits their vessel they must stay within the
high water mark and the waters edge.

Patrols and Officials: Our security will consist of 3 jet boats on the
river checking live-wells, proper identification, boundaries, etc. etc....
Please be respectful of our security staff and if checked during
tournament hours cooperate with live well checks and adhere to all
tournament rules. Asking Catfish Security about other team’s weights is
prohibited.

Additional rules: * If you wish to fish on private land seek permission
from landowner. * No Trotlines, Setlines, Seining Nets, or caged fish
etc. * No pre-marked spots* No other people, but the two fishermen on
the team, are allowed at the fishing site at all times. * No fishing within
100 yards of another team during tournament hours. * Be cautious of
the opening meeting time. If you are found breaking tourney regula-
tions (as determined by tournament committee) this will result in im-
mediate disqualification and banishment from all future Montana Cat-
fish Association events. We will be weighing fish at TWO locations at
rivers edge this year. We will have 4 launch sites still, with two weigh-
in sites at Captain Clark and Voyagers Rest. Awards ceremony will
commence immediately after weigh-ins.

2024 Yellowstone Challenge Tournament Entry

(Please print all information below to ensure entry)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*By signing above, I agree to the rules and regulations set forth by the
Montana Catfish Association and Yellowstone Challenge Catfish tourna-
ment committee. I release with my signature all sponsors, officials, volun-
teers and the Montana Catfish Association from any and all responsibility
and liability.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*By signing above, I agree to the rules and regulations set forth by the
Montana Catfish Association and Yellowstone Challenge Catfish tourna-
ment committee. I release with my signature all sponsors, officials, volun-
teers and the Montana Catfish Association from any and all responsibility
and liability.*

Description of Boat _____

Tournament Entry: \$100 _____

Optional side pot entry \$100 _____

TOTAL: _____

Make checks payable to **Montana Catfish Association** & mail
to:

Montana Catfish Association

P.O. Box 1188

Glasgow Mt, 59230