



## FUNDRAISING

Fishing for the Mission 22, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, employs a therapeutic approach to aid veterans in their recovery through fishing. Our programs are designed to provide veterans with meaningful fishing adventures, where we can introduce them to our behavioral services and marine vocational training opportunities. Additionally, we are dedicated to raising awareness and implementing preventive strategies to address the tragic loss of over 22 veterans to suicide daily in the United States. Since the start of the Global War on Terror in 2001, there have been over 7,000 combat-related deaths and, shockingly, over 120,000 veteran suicides. This public health crisis is unacceptable. With only one percent of our nation serving in the armed forces, it is crucial for the remaining 99 percent to support veterans in crisis. Every dollar raised goes directly towards supporting our mission of assisting veterans in need.

## ENTRY FEE

### Adult Angler Division

- **\$100.00** per adult angler (kids under 12 fish for free with adult entry)

Registration includes:

- Eligibility into the adult overall division and daily prizes.
- Eligibility for the 22-tagged Black Sea Bass Challenge with a prize potential of up to \$22,000 in payouts (see full details below).
- Captain's Bag and tournament t-shirt (registration must be completed by midnight, May 14th to qualify)

### Junior Angler Division (under 13 years of age)

**- Free with adult entry**

Registration includes:

- Eligibility into the junior overall division and daily prizes
- Eligibility for the 22-tagged Black Sea Bass Challenge with a prize potential of up to \$22,000 in payouts (see full details below).
- If you would like to purchase a kids tournament t-shirt, you can do so at checkout for \$25.00. T-shirts can be ordered in youth sizes.

**Tournament T-shirts (open to the public)**

-\$25.00

Tournament T-shirts can be purchased on the event page, with a May 14th cutoff for orders.

The entry fee is ***non-transferable*** and ***non-refundable***. The primary eligible species is Black Sea Bass, with a minimum size of 17 inches for weighing. In the event of a tie, the first registered fish wins. Each angler is allowed to weigh in their heaviest fish of the day; only one fish per day. The overall heaviest Black Sea Bass of the weekend will determine the winners. Make sure to have your fishing licenses on hand.

**PRIZE CATEGORIES**

**Adult Overall Division Prize (Heaviest fish wins all)**

The prizes will be awarded at Railroad Bridge Park on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

**1) \$1000.00**

\*Note: Anglers are permitted to submit their heaviest Black Sea Bass daily. The heaviest fish over the weekend will determine the winners.

**Daily Prizes for Black Sea Bass**

*Men's Division:*

**1) \$500.00**

**2) \$250.00**

**3) \$100.00**

*Women's Division:*

**1) \$500.00**

**2) \$250.00**

**3) \$100.00**

### **Junior Division Prizes**

The prizes will be distributed at Railroad Bridge Park on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

**1) \$250.00 (Maco's gift card)**

**2) \$125.00 (Maco's gift card)**

**3) \$75.00 (Maco's gift card)**

**\*\*Note:** Like the Adult Division, Junior anglers are allowed to submit their heaviest Black Sea Bass daily, with the heaviest fish of the weekend determining the winners. Winners in the Junior Division may also only claim one grand prize category, but are eligible for overall and daily prizes.

### **Daily Prizes for Junior Black Sea Bass (awarded in Maco's Bait and Tackle gift cards):**

1) \$150.00

2) Tackle Prize

3) Tackle Prize

The total prize pool for the three-day event exceeds \$6,100 in cash, not including hundreds of dollars worth of Maco's Bait and Tackle gift cards and tackle prizes for the kids. Cash prize payouts are conditional, based on a minimum of 300 adult entries. If our fundraising target is not met, the prizes may be adjusted accordingly to maintain fairness to the organization and participants. Conversely, prizes may increase if we surpass our attendance goals and receive additional sponsorship donations. All division and daily prizes will be presented at the awards party on Sunday, June 2, 2024. If winners are not present to collect their prizes, checks may be collected from our resource center or mailed directly to them at our earliest convenience. In the event of a tie, the earliest registered fish will be deemed the winner. All participants are responsible for any taxes and fees incurred from winning any prizes.

### **Preamble to the 22 Tagged Black Sea Bass Challenge:**

Fishing for Mission 22 presents the \$22,000 Tagged Black Sea Bass Challenge, akin to the exhilarating "hole-in-one" contests at golf events. In collaborating with Macos Bait and Tackle and the MA Division of Fisheries, the eve of our tournament will witness the release of twenty-two (22) specially tagged black sea bass into the waters of Buzzards Bay. Fortunate anglers who reel in these tagged fish will be awarded \$1,000 for each tagged catch. This thrilling opportunity allows participants to potentially catch multiple tagged fish, aiming for a grand total giveaway of \$22,000. The number 22 bears significant meaning, representing the daily loss of veterans to suicide in our country. Through this event, we aim to honor these individuals and raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention.

Eligibility Criteria for Participants:

Participation in the Challenge is exclusive to anglers officially registered for the tournament. Should a registered participant catch a tagged black sea bass during the tournament's official timeframe, they must promptly present their catch to the tournament officials for tag inspection. To aid in recognition, replicas of the tags will be displayed to participants during the captain's check-in.

#### Verification Procedure and Prize Disbursement:

Our officials will conduct a thorough examination to ascertain the authenticity of each tag. To preserve the Challenge's integrity, anglers presenting a tagged fish may be subject to a polygraph test before prize disbursement.

#### Prize Distribution Framework:

Subsequent to the affirmative verification of the catch, the designated prize will be awarded in accordance with the terms delineated. The prize allocated for each authenticated catch of a tagged black sea bass is valued at \$1000, thereby establishing an aggregate potential prize fund of \$22,000.

#### Essential Provisions:

- The tagging and subsequent release of the black sea bass shall take place prior to the day(s) of the tournament, thereby ensuring an equitable and random dispersal.
- To be deemed eligible for the prize, the catch of a tagged black sea bass must be executed during the official hours sanctioned by the tournament (see tournament hours below).

## REGISTRATION

Participants must register at [www.fishingforthemission22.org](http://www.fishingforthemission22.org) under our events page. For those with limited internet access, checks can be mailed to the address below with the full name, shirt size, and phone number included (please, no cash). Signup through website is highly encouraged and preferred method.

Fishing for the Mission 22  
[47 Main Street](#)  
[Buzzards Bay, MA 02532](#)

## TOURNAMENT DATES

The tournament will commence on May 31 at 5:00 a.m. and conclude on Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. An up-to-date leaderboard will be actively maintained throughout the event. Further details and check-in instructions will be provided during the registration and kickoff party hosted by Quahog Republic on Thursday, May 30, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. It is compulsory for all registered anglers to check in and sign a liability disclaimer before any fish can be registered. During check-in, participants will receive their Captain's bag, t-shirts, meal wristbands, and additional pertinent information. The signing of the Disclaimer of Liability waiver is a mandatory step for all anglers to finalize their registration, without any exceptions. For those unable to make the registration event, a form may be signed online.

Please select one of the following locations for registration and to collect your Captain's bag:

- Waterfront Eatery (Main)  
197 Onset Avenue, Onset, MA 02558
  
- Dive Bar  
97 Spring Bars Road, Falmouth, MA 02540
  
- Quahog Republic Whaler's Tavern  
24 N Water St, New Bedford, MA 02740
  
- Sharky's Cantina in Oak Bluffs (Pick up hours 4-8pm)  
31 Circuit Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

***Note: Please ensure that you carefully review and understand the tournament rules and make every effort to attend the captain's check-in. During the check-in, our team will thoroughly explain the tournament's rules and regulations, as well as address any concerns, provide updates, and discuss any changes to the tournament structure. We understand that some participants may be unable to attend the check-in, and in such cases, another angler may represent you and collect your captain's bag. Please note that we will not be able to answer questions about the tournament via our listed phone line during the tournament, as this line is dedicated to providing assistance to veterans in crisis and must remain open to address their needs.***

***The check-in session is designed to resolve any inquiries and concerns before the tournament begins. If you have any detailed questions during the tournament, please direct them to the following email address: [ftm22tournamentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ftm22tournamentcommittee@gmail.com). Our committee will review them and provide a timely response via email or phone call if necessary. It's crucial to recognize that this is a charity tournament run by volunteers, so we kindly request that all volunteers be treated with the utmost respect.***

Maco's Bait and Tackle is the official weigh-in headquarters for the Spring Fling tournament. The scales will close at 12 p.m. sharp on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Participants may weigh their fish after this deadline only if they have checked in with the weighmaster and are in the queue by 12 p.m.; this cutoff will be strictly adhered to

without exceptions. Each submitted fish must be caught by the registered angler with a rod and reel, a rule that also applies to the Junior Angler Division.

All fish must be officially weighed and recorded at one of Maco's Bait and Tackle locations or Dicks Bait and Tackle designated below:

- Maco's Bait and Tackle (Wareham location)  
3173 Cranberry Hwy, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
- Maco's Bait and Tackle (Pocasset Location)  
4 Barlow's Landing Road, Pocasset, MA 02559
- Dick's Bait and Tackle (Oak Bluffs, Vinyard, and Islands)  
108 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

After the tournament, the awards ceremony will be held at Railroad Bridge Park, located at 70 Main St, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The ceremony will include food vendors, a beer garden sponsored by Stone Path Malt, live music, and more. This awards party is open to the public as we aim to raise awareness, advocate, and prevent veteran suicide. We will have an open house of our new resource center during event party, which is directly across the street from railroad bridge park (47 main St. Buzzards Bay, MA 02532).

In the case of inclement weather, the party will be relocated to Stone Path Malt, located at 11 Kendrick Rd, Wareham, MA 02571.

## **WEATHER**

Participants enter the Tournament at their own risk and discretion.

## **PROTESTS/COMPLIANCE**

A registered angler may protest another angler's catch by submitting a written protest to the tournament committee. Such protests must be filed by 12:30 PM EST on Sunday, June 2. The Spring Fling Committee will address and resolve any protest, with their decision being final. Noncompliance with any tournament rule, regulation, or applicable Massachusetts State Fishing guidelines may result in the disqualification of an angler or their catch. Disqualified anglers will not be entitled to any prizes, awards, or refunds.

## **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

All participants and guests assume full responsibility for their personal safety and property, expressly acknowledging the risks associated with tournament participation. As a condition of entry, participants agree to release and hold harmless the tournament's affiliates from any claims related to injuries, death, or property damage

incurred during the event. By participating in the Spring Fling Tournament, entrants agree to this liability release and cannot retract it.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend rules and regulations to maintain the integrity of the Tournament. The Committee also reserves the right to cancel the event due to safety concerns, including inclement weather, acts of God, or other uncontrollable factors. In the event of cancellation, prizes will be distributed via a lottery among all registered participants, with the number of prizes proportionate to signups and sponsorships. No refunds will be issued; participation is at one's own risk.

This charity fundraising tournament supports our therapeutic fishing and marine vocational programs, behavioral services, and resource center. It also aims to raise awareness about the more than 22 veterans lost to suicide daily in the U.S. This family-oriented event will host veterans, active-duty members, and military supporters. We expect all attendees to show the utmost respect and courtesy. Unsportsmanlike conduct will lead to immediate disqualification and potential exclusion from future FFTM22 events.

***It is your responsibility to read and understand the rules and regulations.***

Have fun, and good luck!

Fishing for Mission 22 is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN: 88-3576789.