

# 2025 FFTM22 Spring Fling Black Sea Bass Tournament Rules and Information

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

## Entry Fee

- \$100.00 per person for Adult Angler Division
- \$15.00 per person for Junior Angler Division (12 and under)
- The entry fee is non-transferable and not refundable.

## **Registration includes:**

- Eligibility for specific category division prizes and Catch 22 Shoutout prizes
- Eligibility for the 22-tagged Black Sea Bass Challenge with potential payouts up to \$22,000 (details below)
- Exclusive Captain's Bag (adult or junior division) - Registration by midnight, May 5th to qualify as bags and the gear inside each bag have to be ordered with lead time.

Adult size hooded UV-rated tech tees with the new tournament logo can be purchased at checkout for \$35. Orders must be placed by May 14th. All shirts are special order due to sizing, cannot be exchanged, and are final sale.

## Tournament Check-In and Captain's Bag Distribution

**Participant check-in and kickoff event is Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 7pm.**

During check-in, participants will receive their Captain's Bag, t-shirts (if purchased), and additional pertinent information. A printed set of rules will be in each Captain's Bag.

*At registration checkout, you must select one of the following locations for check-in and to collect Captain's Bag. **The registration lists will be specific to each location with captain's bags for those registered anglers only.** There are not enough additional captain's bags to overstock each location.*

- Quahog Republic Waterfront Eatery (Main event), 197 Onset Avenue, Onset, MA 02558
- Quahog Republic Dive Bar, 97 Spring Bars Road, Falmouth, MA 02540
- Martha's Vineyard Chowder Company, 9 Oak Bluffs Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

## Prize Categories

The combined weight of a registered angler's three heaviest Black Sea Bass over the weekend determines the three grand prize winners. In the event of a tie, the registered angler with the first registered fish wins.

(Based on the angler's three heaviest fish over the three days of the tournament period.)

### **Adult Division Grand Prizes**

- \$3,000      Check
- \$1,500      Check
- \$750        Check

### **Junior Division Grand Prizes**

1. \$250.00 (Maco's gift card)
2. \$125.00 (Maco's gift card)
3. \$75.00 (Maco's gift card)

## **Catch 22 Shootout: \$200**

After grand prizes and excluding grand prize winners, each angler is eligible to win one of 22 prizes of \$200 in the Catch 22 Shootout category for the 22 heaviest fish. Each angler can claim only one grand prize or only one Catch 22 Shootout prize.

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

Fishing for Mission 22 presents the \$22,000 Tagged Black Sea Bass Challenge, similar to "hole-in-one" contests at golf events. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, twenty-two specially tagged black sea bass will be released into Buzzards Bay. Tagging and release of the black sea bass takes place within 72 hours of the start of the tournament in MA waters ensuring random dispersal. To be eligible for the prize, the catch of a tagged black sea bass must occur during official tournament hours. Registered Anglers who catch these tagged fish and present the fish with the tag still inserted will be awarded \$1,000 for each of these fish. This opportunity allows participants to catch multiple tagged fish, with a total potential of \$22,000 in prize winnings. The number 22 represents the daily loss of veterans to suicide, and this portion of the event aims to honor them and raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention.

## **Eligibility Criteria for Tagged Fish**

When a registered angler catches a tagged black sea bass during the tournament, they must present it to officials for tag inspection. Officials will examine each tag for authenticity. To ensure integrity, anglers with a tagged fish may undergo a polygraph test before receiving prizes. Tag replicas will be shown during captain's check-in on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **IMPORTANT NOTES ON RULES AND PRIZES**

- Fishing hours ("Lines In") are from May 30, 2025 at 5am to Sunday June 1, 2025 at 12pm ("Lines Out").
- Participation and prize eligibility is exclusive to registered anglers only.
- Each angler can only be eligible for one Grand Prize Category or one Catch 22 Shootout prize.
- All anglers are eligible to receive the \$1,000 for catching a Tagged Black Sea Bass regardless of whether they win a Grand Prize or a Catch 22 Shootout prize however these fish cannot also be used to win another category.
- Each angler has to present their own fish for weigh-in. ID's will be verified with registration list.
- The eligible species is Black Sea Bass, with a minimum size of 17 inches for weighing. Each angler can weigh in only 4 fish each day of the tournament.
- The total prize pool and awards for the three-day event exceeds \$32,000. Total prize payouts and individual prize categories are estimated based on a minimum of 300 adult registrations. Prize values may be adjusted if the minimum of 300 registrations is not met. Prizes may increase with additional sponsorships. All prizes will be presented at the awards party on Sunday, June 1, 2025. If winners are not present, checks may be mailed or picked up at the FFTM22 Resource Center. In a tie, the earliest registered fish wins. Winners are responsible for any taxes incurred from prize winnings. A completed IRS 1099-MISC tax form and matching ID is required for prize winnings \$5000 and over. Checks will be issued after proper documentation has been received.

## **TOURNAMENT 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 their full name and phone number included by May 28, 2025 (please, no cash). By what date? What will they receive back in the mail if they send a check to register? Registration through the website is highly encouraged and preferred.

Fishing for the Mission 22

47 Main Street

Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

**Note:** Please ensure that you carefully review and understand the tournament rules. During the check-in, our team will thoroughly explain the tournament's rules and regulations, 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: [fftm22tournamentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:fftm22tournamentcommittee@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.

### **Weigh-Ins**

Maco's Bait and Tackle in Bourne and Dick's Bait and Tackle in Oak Bluffs are the official weigh-in headquarters for the Spring Fling tournament during the following hours.

***Dick's Bait and Tackle    108 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557***

- ***Friday May 30, 2025                      Scales open at 10am                      and close at 6pm***
- ***Saturday May 31, 2025                      Scales open at 10am                      and close at 6pm***
- ***Sunday June 1, 2025                      Scales open at 10am                      and close at 1pm***

***Maco's Bait and Tackle    3173 Cranberry Highway, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532***

- ***Friday May 30, 2025                      Scales open at 10am                      and close at 7pm***
- ***Saturday May 31, 2025                      Scales open at 10am                      and close at 7pm***

**On Sunday June 1, 2025 (excluding The Islands' anglers weighing at Dick's Bait and Tackle)**

***All fish will be weighed in prior to the awards party at:***

***Railroad Bridge Park Pavillion, 90 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532***

***Scales will open at 10am and close at 2pm. Fish will be weighed for all anglers that check in with the weighmaster and are in the queue by 2 p.m. This cutoff will be strictly adhered to without exceptions.***

## **Awards Party**

After the tournament, the awards ceremony will also be held at Railroad Bridge Park Pavillion, located at 90 Main St, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The ceremony will feature raffles, a beer garden sponsored by Stone Path Malt, Food from Mincle Boys Catering will be on site as the official food vender. This awards party is open to the public as we aim to raise awareness and advocate for the prevention of veteran suicide. We will also have an open house at our resource center during the event, which is directly across the street from the Pavillion at 47 Main St, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532.

In the case of inclement weather, the awards party will be relocated to:

Stone Path Malt, 11 Kendrick Rd, Wareham, MA 02571.

## **WEATHER**

The safety of everyone is of utmost importance and we are all responsible for making the best decision for our own individual safety. The tournament will proceed rain or shine and may not be rescheduled. Participants enter the tournament at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.

## **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 within ten minutes of the last fish being weighed in by the weighmaster. The Tournament 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 and the loss of any prizes. 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 and registration, 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 fundraising event 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 may lead to immediate disqualification and potential exclusion from future FFTM22 events.

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.