

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

20th ANNUAL YELLOWSTONE CHALLENGE CATFISH TOURNAMENT



YELLOWSTONE RIVER /Huntley, MT

MAY 9 , 2026

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 visit us online at www.montanacats.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY: 5-8-26

SOCIAL..... 6:00-7:00 P.M.
Rhoadside Event Center, Huntley, MT

CALCUTTA/RULES.....7:00-10:00 P.M.
Rhoadside Event Center, Huntley, MT. 1 team member must be present to declare boat ramp/ rules meeting.

SATURDAY: 5-9-26

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 Rhoadside Event Center!

MONTANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION 2026 TOUR SCHEDULE

May 9th: Yellowstone Challenge (Huntley, MT)

June 6th: Milk River Catfish Classic (Glasgow, MT)

July 18th: Monster Cat Roundup (Sidney, MT)

August 15th: Missouri River Catfish Clash (Williston, ND)

2026 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 8th at 6:00 p.m. Tournament Hours are 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., May 9th.

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 50 yards downstream and 50 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 50 yards of another team during tournament hours. * Be cautious of the opening meeting time. If you are found breaking tourney regulations (as determined by tournament committee) this will result in immediate 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 2 launch sites still, with two weigh-in sites at Captain Clark and Voyagers Rest. Awards ceremony will commence immediately after weigh-ins.

2026 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 tournament committee. I release with my signature all sponsors, officials, volunteers 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 tournament committee. I release with my signature all sponsors, officials, volunteers 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