

Liam Gadsby Memorial Fishing Derby Rules

Hosted by Miklat Recovery Program

Proceeds supporting the opening of a women's recovery program in the qathet region

1. Derby Date, Time, and Location

The Liam Gadsby Memorial Fishing Derby is a tidal waters fishing derby based in Powell River, British Columbia.

Derby date: Saturday, August 29, 2026

Derby start time: 6:00 a.m.

Derby end time: 4:00 p.m. sharp

Weigh-in cut-off: All eligible fish must be at the official weigh-in location no later than 4:00 p.m.

Official weigh-in location: Powell River Outdoors Pro Shop

Participants who are still standing in line for weigh-in at 4:00 p.m. will be accommodated by derby staff.

Fish arriving after the 4:00 p.m. cut-off and not in line will not be eligible for prizes, regardless of when they were caught.

2. Prize Handout and Community Barbecue

Prizes will be handed out at:

Miklat Recovery Program

5907 Arbutus Avenue

Powell River, B.C.

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Burgers and hotdogs will be served.

Participants, families, supporters, and community members are welcome to attend the prize handout and barbecue.

3. Sobriety Request for Prize Handout

Miklat Recovery Program recognizes that alcohol and marijuana are legal substances, and this event is not intended to discriminate against anyone who uses them responsibly.

However, because this derby is a recovery-focused community fundraiser and the prize handout will be held at Miklat Recovery Program, we respectfully ask that everyone attending the prize handout and barbecue arrive sober and remain sober while on site.

Anyone who appears intoxicated, impaired, or disruptive may be asked to leave the property. This is to help maintain a safe, respectful, and recovery-supportive environment for participants, residents, families, staff, and guests.

4. Prize Collection

Winners are encouraged to attend the prize handout in person at 5:00 p.m. to receive their prize.

Anyone who wins a prize but is not present at the prize handout will be contacted by phone the following day using the phone number provided at registration or weigh-in.

5. Derby Boundary

Eligible fish must be caught in **DFO Tidal Waters Area 15 or Area 16**, subject to all current DFO openings, closures, subarea restrictions, Rockfish Conservation Areas, species limits, size limits, and conditions of licence.

Each participant is responsible for knowing exactly where they are fishing and ensuring they are inside the approved derby boundary and in an area open to the species being retained.

6. Compliance with DFO Regulations

This derby does not override Fisheries and Oceans Canada regulations. All participants must comply with all current DFO tidal waters recreational fishing regulations, licence conditions, fishery notices, closures, size limits, daily limits, possession limits, annual limits, gear restrictions, and catch-recording requirements.

Only fish that are legally caught, legally retained, and legally transported are eligible for entry.

Participants are responsible for checking current DFO regulations before fishing and throughout the derby day, including any in-season changes or emergency closures.

7. Licences and Stamps

All anglers must hold a valid B.C. Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence. Any angler retaining salmon must also have a valid Salmon Conservation Stamp.

Participants must carry their licence and catch records while fishing and while transporting fish and must produce them if requested by a fishery officer, conservation officer, fishery guardian, derby official, or weigh-in official.

8. Eligible Species and Prize Categories

Prize categories are as follows:

First Place — Hidden Chinook Weight: \$1,000

Awarded to the eligible Chinook salmon closest to the hidden weight selected by derby officials before weigh-in.

Second Place — Heaviest Coho: \$500

Awarded to the heaviest eligible Coho salmon.

Third Place — Heaviest Chinook: \$300

Awarded to the heaviest eligible Chinook salmon.

Fourth Place — Heaviest Lingcod: \$200

Awarded to the heaviest eligible Lingcod.

For Chinook categories, Chinook are eligible only if they were legally retained from an area and subarea open to Chinook retention on derby day. If Chinook retention is closed in a participant's fishing area, that participant may not enter a Chinook from that area.

9. Hidden Chinook Weight

The hidden Chinook weight will be selected by derby officials before weigh-in begins and will remain confidential until all eligible Chinook have been weighed.

The eligible Chinook closest to the hidden weight will win the First Place prize. If two or more Chinook are equally close to the hidden weight, the fish weighed earliest at the official weigh-in will win.

10. Weigh-In Rules

All fish must be weighed at the official weigh-in station at Powell River Outdoors Pro Shop.

Fish must be whole, fresh, legally retained, and suitable for inspection. Derby officials may inspect any fish, licence, catch record, or other information needed to confirm eligibility.

Participants must provide the following information at weigh-in:

Participant name

Phone number

Species entered

Weight of fish

Approximate area or subarea caught

Confirmation that the fish was legally retained

Confirmation that required catch records have been completed, where applicable

Derby officials may refuse any fish that appears to be altered, previously frozen, illegally retained, spoiled, mutilated, improperly recorded, or otherwise ineligible.

11. Catch Recording

Participants are responsible for completing all required DFO catch records immediately and permanently, including records for retained Chinook and Lingcod where required.

A fish may be disqualified if the required DFO catch record has not been completed before weigh-in.

12. Gear and Fishing Methods

All fishing must be done by legal recreational tidal waters angling methods only.

Participants must follow all DFO gear restrictions, including barbless hook requirements for salmon fishing and any special area or subarea restrictions in effect on derby day.

Fish caught by illegal methods, in closed areas, during closed times, or using prohibited gear are not eligible.

13. Daily Limits, Possession Limits, and Size Limits

Participants must follow all current DFO daily limits, possession limits, annual limits, and minimum or maximum size restrictions.

No participant may retain fish in excess of their legal limit. Derby participation does not allow any additional catch beyond what is permitted by law.

14. Conservation Areas and Closed Areas

No fish caught in a closed area, Rockfish Conservation Area, protected area, or any area closed to that species will be accepted.

Participants are responsible for knowing and avoiding all closed areas and conservation areas.

15. One Prize Per Fish

A single fish may not win more than one prize unless derby officials announce otherwise. If one fish qualifies for more than one category, derby officials may award the higher-value prize and move the next eligible fish into the remaining category.

16. Ties

For heaviest-fish categories, ties will be broken by the earliest official weigh-in time.

For the hidden-weight category, a tie will be broken by the fish weighed earliest at the official weigh-in.

17. Derby Officials' Decisions

All decisions made by derby officials are final. Derby officials may disqualify any participant or fish for rule violations, unsafe conduct, dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, suspected illegal fishing, or failure to comply with DFO regulations.

18. Safety

All participants are responsible for their own safety, vessel safety, crew safety, weather decisions, navigation, required safety equipment, and compliance with boating laws.

Participants should not fish in unsafe weather or sea conditions. The derby is a community fundraising event and no prize is worth risking injury or loss of life.

19. Assumption of Risk

By entering or participating in the Liam Gadsby Memorial Fishing Derby, each participant agrees that they are participating voluntarily and entirely at their own risk.

Fishing, boating, travelling on or near the water, launching and retrieving boats, handling fish, using fishing equipment, and attending derby-related activities involve risks, including injury, property damage, drowning, accidents, weather-related hazards, equipment failure, and other unexpected dangers.

By entering the contest, each participant accepts full responsibility for their own safety, conduct, equipment, vessel, passengers, and compliance with all applicable fishing, boating, and safety laws and regulations.

By entering the contest, each participant waives any and all rights to sue, make a claim, or seek compensation from Miklat Recovery, Together We Can Drug & Alcohol Recovery & Education Society, Powell River Outdoors, event organizers, volunteers, sponsors, prize donors, property owners, or any other person or organization connected to the derby for any injury, loss, damage, accident, death, expense, or harm that may occur before, during, or after the derby.

Entry into the contest confirms that the participant has read, understood, and agreed to this Release of Liability and Waiver of Claims. Anyone who does not agree to these terms must not enter or participate in the derby.

20. Fundraising Purpose

All proceeds from the derby will support Miklat Recovery Program's work toward opening a women's recovery program in the Powell River/qathet region.