

SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2017, 10:00 AM
Administration Building Conference Room (3rd Floor)
Marine Resources Center, Charleston, SC

GCAB Members Present: M. Rogers, B. Roof, T. Hancock, F. Bergen, J. Reed, B. Morris, S. Holder, S. Leasure, D. Sykes, S. Mungo

GCAB Members Absent: H. Johnson

DNR Staff Present: R. Boyles, W. Jenkins, A. Dukes, M. Ingle, K. Spry, W. Ladue

Guests: J. Goller, C. Rhodes, S. Hiott, D. Menefee, B. McConnell, D. Carter, E. Keelin

Call Meeting to Order & Approval of Minutes: Chairman Rogers

Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order. He asked if there were any changes to be made to the previous meeting (November 2016) minutes. **S. Leasure made a motion to approve as presented, F. Bergen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: Chairman Rogers:

N/A

Deputy Director's Comments: David Whitaker

David informed the Board that National Marine Fisheries closed recreational Cobia fishing due to over harvesting of the fish in VA and NC in 2016. ASMFC is starting on a FMP for Cobia reflecting a shift of management from NFMRS to ASMFC.

Tournament Committee Report: A. Dukes

Amy presented the Tournament Committee's proposed 2018 Series Tournament Dates. The TC also agreed to support S.C. Memorial Reef Opportunities.

New Business: Wally Jenkins

- A. Harry Hampton Scholarship Options: HH Board Representatives Jim Goller and Sam Hiott presented the idea that they would like the Board to consider increasing the Governor's Cup contributions towards Harry Hampton scholarships. Chairman Rogers thanked them for coming and the Board would discuss options at their September meeting.
- B. Budget: Wally reviewed the 2016 final Series expenditures he went on to review the proposed 2017 expenditures. **A motion was made by D. Sykes to approve the 2017 Budget as presented. B. Morris 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

He noted that the 2017 Fundraising/Sponsorship efforts are off to a very good start for the 2017 Series.

An additional 2017 expenditure was discussed regarding Wally Bubbly presenting SAT billfish data at the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in August. **A motion was made by B. Morris to approve funding Dr. Bubbly's travel to the AFS meeting in August with the condition that a final manuscript be submitted to a scientific journal and previously to be approved by Wally Jenkins. S. Holder 2nd, motion passed unanimously.**

- C. 2016 Draft Annual Report: Wally asked for Board members to review the annual report. Stokely Holder volunteered to do so.

- D. Nominations: A motion was made by S. Holder to reappoint Bubba Roof to a 2nd term on the Advisory Board. D. Sykes 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.

Board members discussed the 2 nominations to fill upcoming Board Vacancies. After discussion 2 motions were made: 1. D. Sykes made a motion to accept John Hill for an AB vacancy in July 2017. F. Bergen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. 2. S. Holder made a motion to accept Chad Sanders to fill an AB vacancy in July of 2018. D. Sykes 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

Board Chairman Nomination: A motion was made by S. Holder to nominate Stevie Leasure to the position of Board Chairman. B. Morris 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

- E. Finalization of 2017 Series Tournament Guidelines: Amy provided an overview of proposed changes to the Tournament Guidelines these proposed changes were previously reviewed by AB members Fred Bergen and Stokely Holder with Series staff. A motion was made by F. Bergen to approve the amended 2017 fishing guidelines. D. Sykes 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. S.C. Memorial Reef Discussions: Wally gave an update on the S.C Memorial Reef website. SCDNR will now be the administrator of the URL (website name). F. Bergen made a motion to approve the proposed contract for the website developer. S. Holder 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Wally discussed the plans and opportunities associated with acquiring the old HWY 41 Bridge to deploy onto the S. C. Memorial Reef site. He further outlined the cost associated with the project and requested that Series funds be used to kick-start the fundraising efforts. Discussions ensued among the Board members with the final motion made by D. Sykes to approve using \$30,000 of Series funds towards the Hwy 41 Bridge/Reef Project. B. Roof 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Future Direction of the Series: Tommy Hancock voiced his opinion that he would like to see the Series move to an all release format for Billfish. Chairman Rogers asked the Board to consider that idea of an all-release series. Many discussions ensued, including the costs associated with the TWT's and the costs for the average fisherman to fish in the Series. The Board agreed to have further discussions at the fall meeting.

Other Business: Amy Dukes

Amy presented artwork for promotional items advocating leaving Billfish in the water. She asked to Board to think about concepts for promotions or sponsors to sell at Series events.

Date and Time of next Advisory Board meeting – September 7, at 10:00 am

Adjournment: Chairman Rogers

Chairman Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. S. Holder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, D. Sykes 2nd. Meeting adjourned 12:50 pm.