



# 12th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series May 3 - July 16, 2000



## TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

**1.** Fish must be caught in accordance with all state and federal laws to qualify to earn points or awards. *All anglers, including female and youths, must strike their fish in order to be eligible for series points or awards. After a fish strikes, only the angler is allowed to touch the rod.*

**2.** Listed below are minimum qualifying sizes for billfish brought to the dock, measured in a straight line from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw:

Blue marlin	101 inches
White marlin	68 inches
Sailfish	65 inches

*Note: The above measurements exceed the federally mandated minimum lengths by two (2) inches.*

**3.** A penalty of 100 points will be assessed against a boat for each billfish brought to the dock not meeting minimum size requirements.

**4.** Boats guilty of wanton waste of fish taken in a Series event will be disqualified from earning points for that event.

**5.** Scoring for eligible billfish weighed in is based only on those points officially awarded each boat by each tournament. Boats earn one point per pound for their single heaviest billfish weighed in each tournament. No points are awarded for any additional billfish weighed.

**6.** Only blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish are eligible for tag and release points. Scoring for billfish tagged and released in good condition is as follows:

Blue Marlin	300 points
White marlin	150 points
Sailfish	100 points

**7.** To qualify for tag and release points, a billfish must be legitimately fought to the boat, a scientific tag issued by a state or national fisheries research program implanted in the fish's back muscle and the hook removed or the leader cut as close to the fish's mouth as possible prior to release.

**8.** Billfish boated for measuring, without use of gaff, harpoon or other injurious device, will qualify for tag and release points, provided they are returned to the water healthy and are above the Federal minimum size.

**9.** Any billfish gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured in an attempt to boat the fish will not qualify for tag and release points, even if ultimately returned to the water.

**10.** To qualify any billfish for points, every person aboard the vessel 18 years of age or older must sign an affidavit swearing that all rules and regulations were observed with the described fish. Failure of any person to sign for any reason disqualifies that fish.

**11.** Affidavits must be completed the day the tag and release or catch occurs, except when a medical emergency involving the boat's crew prohibits completion of the form or when a mechanically disabled boat cannot return within the prescribed weigh-in period. In these instances, the forms must be completed and returned within ten (10) days of the tag and release. Boats fishing out of other marinas or ports may fax their completed tag and release affidavit to

tournament headquarters prior to the close of the weighing scales on the day of catch.

**12.** Boats will be awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of four events. A boat's highest total points up to a maximum of four tournaments will count toward aggregate point totals for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. Points cannot be transferred from one boat to another.

**13.** Boats must fish a minimum of two Series tournaments to qualify for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. However, the Outstanding Billfish, Lady Angler and Youth Angler awards may be won by vessels fishing only one tournament.

**14.** In the event of a tie, the boat participating in the most events shall be the winner. If a tie remains, the boat accumulating the points the earliest shall be the winner.

**15.** Awards will be presented for the heaviest dolphin, wahoo and tuna caught by boats participating in the series and for the Outstanding Female and Youth Anglers (under 16 years of age). The awards for Female and Youth angler will go to the single heaviest tuna, dolphin or wahoo if no female/youth angler has landed or tagged a legal billfish. Billfish caught by female or youth anglers will earn regular Series points for the species.

**16.** A Blue Water Conservation Award will be presented to the boat accumulating the most points tagging dolphin (50 points), yellowfin tuna (100 points) and wahoo (150 points). All fish must be caught on legal Series tournament fishing days, and tagged using official tags supplied by the Marine Resources Division's Marine Gamefish Tagging Program. Completed tagging reports will serve as official entry forms and must be submitted either to Marine Resources Division personnel working the tournament or the weighmaster on the same day the fish was tagged.

**17.** All awards are presented to the boat. Invitations to the annual Governor's Cup awards reception are limited to winning boat crews and boat owners whose boats fish two or more yearly series events.

**18.** It is the intent of the S.C. Governor's Cup to encourage release of healthy billfish, therefore the use of 130 lb. class line is allowed.

**19.** A boat owner may request an official ruling from the Governor's Cup Series. The request for a ruling must be submitted in writing to a member of the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall rule on the request within seven (7) days. Any ruling of the Tournament Committee may be appealed by writing to the Board of Directors within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding weekend days and holidays. Results of an appeal shall be rendered by the Board in writing to the appellant within thirty (30) days. All decisions of the Board are final. *All rulings will focus solely on compliance with Governor's Cup Series rules, not individual tournament rules.*

*Note: Rules changes for 2000 are presented in italics.*



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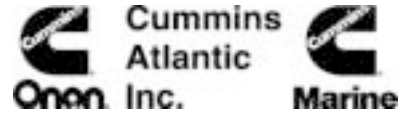
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### 2000 SERIES SCHEDULE

- May 3-7** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Edisto Marina  
3702 Docksite Rd.  
Edisto Beach SC 29438  
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 17-21** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Damien Zanetti  
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.  
Johns Island SC 29455  
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 24-28** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*  
Contact: Ricky Ferdon  
P.O. Box 1704  
Georgetown SC 29442  
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 7-11** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Charles Stone  
P.O. Box 549  
Murrells Inlet SC 29576  
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 21-25** *Isle Of Palms Marina Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Brian Berrigan  
P.O. Box 550  
Isle of Palms SC 29451  
843-886-0209 FAX 843-886-0058
- July 12-16** *Dock Holidays Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Susie Watson  
1525 13th Ave. North  
North Myrtle Beach SC 29582  
843-280-6354 FAX 843-280-9002

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*A Release Today  
Is A  
Fish Tomorrow*

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