



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 10, No. 3 June 2005

17TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- April 20-23** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- May 4-7** *Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 18-21** *38th Annual Georgetown Landing Marina Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 1-4** *Charleston Harbor Boater's World Marine Centers
Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- June 29-30** *HMY/Viking MegaDock Tournament*
- July 1-2** Contact: K.C. Rennie
P.O. Box 759
Charleston SC 29402
843-577-7702 FAX 843-577-7704

For more information contact:

Tom DuPré
Office of Fisheries Management
843-953-9365 email: dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!
Fish Responsibly!

"RASCAL" LANDS NEW STATE RECORD

Billed as South Carolina's premier billfish competition, what we all used to simply refer to as the Charleston Harbor Tournament, is now officially designated as "The Charleston Harbor Boater's World Marine Centers Billfish Tournament". With a new title sponsor, schedule and dates, the CHBWMCBT began its registration under calm, but rainy skies. The slate of activities for the event included the popular fighting chair competition; pig pickin' on the beach. For the ladies, Mimosas, Bloody Marys, and Margaritas by the pool and the grand finale and awards "Blowout on the Beach". This high tech event offers live video of the weigh station activities and live audio action from the fishing competitors.

Seventy-two competitors registered for the event, but only seven ventured offshore on day one due to weather concerns. As luck would have it the weatherman was wrong and it turned out to be a good day, especially for Bobby Hood and the *Compromise IV* who took the day one lead by releasing a sailfish. They also took the lead in the dolphin category with a 29.4 pounder.

Day two saw most boats giving it a try. Seven blue marlin, three whites and two sailfish were released but the catch of the day came aboard Norman Pulliam's *Rascal*. The story goes something like this: At around 10:20am or so, most of the crew was napping. W.C. "Corky" Taylor wasn't having much action, so he went into the cabin to retrieve his 'lucky pink' fishing cap, when the reel began screaming. During the 1.4-hour fight the fish surfaced only once, giving the anglers the first look at a very big fish. Most of the fight was fought on the deep end and they finally reeled the fish almost straight up to finally retrieve it. It was so big they had to open the cabin door to stick the bill of the fish through it to get

the tail onboard. To the delight of the crew the fish was very cooperative. As the *Rascal* pulled up to the weigh station the crowd became massive. It took at least 10 people to get the fish on the dock and up to the scales. The bill had to be tied to the tail in order for the massive fish to clear the ground. The weight was 881.8 pounds, a new state record, beating the old record by 129 pounds.

Day three almost seemed anticlimactic. *Jabez* released another blue to take second place and the billfish conservation award. *Home Run* took 3rd with a blue and a white released. Top Dolphin (56 lbs) went to Hew King aboard *My Three Sons*. Top tuna (35 lbs) went to Alexis Lee aboard *Gusto IV* and top wahoo (39.3 lbs) goes to Jerry Lockwood on the *Ali L*. All the youth anglers under 10 were recognized and given small trophies, however 12 year old Thomas Garmany got the top youth award for his 42.1 pound dolphin aboard the *Sea Fox*. *Chicora's* Pam Foster got the top female honors and kept *Chicora* in first



Not singing the blues are ... (left to right) Norman Pulliam, Mark Rogers and Douglas Miller; (kneeling) Corky Taylor

place in the overall Series standings with a released white marlin.

The "Blowout on the Beach" awards ceremony was a blast. Good food, excellent music and good comrodery. To keep it all in perspective, the *Rascal* crew remembered an old fishing buddy Bill Moore who had recently passed and felt that Bill's spirit had been with them that day. Congratulations to all our winners. Thanks to Deidre Menifee, Sam Hiott and Mike Altine for their hospitality and for putting on such a great event.

"CHICORA" WINS GEORGETOWN TOURNAMENT

"*Chicora*," owned by Frank Foster of Fountain Inn captured the Best Billfish Boat award Saturday, May 21, at the Georgetown Landing Marina Blue Marlin Tournament, the third of five tournaments in the 17th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

Friday, the second day of the tournament, proved to be the charm for *Chicora*. Linda Foster, wife of owner Frank Foster, landed the largest blue marlin ever caught by a lady angler in South Carolina waters, at 563.5 lbs., while angler Lee Foster of Fountain Inn released a blue marlin on Friday, earning *Chicora* an additional 300 points. *Chicora* finished the tournament with a 863.5 point total.

Rookie IV, owned by Eddie Buck of Charleston, captured the tournament's Best Billfish award for a 581.0 lb. blue marlin landed by angler Charles F. Rivers of Charleston. Second place billfish went to Linda Foster onboard the *Chicora*; she also won top lady angler award. Third place billfish was awarded to *No Problem*, owned by Mark Becker of Bala Cynwyd, PA for a landed blue marlin on Thursday, the first day of the tournament, weighing 439.8 lbs. by lady angler Brooke Gassel of Bryn Mawr, PA. Gassel also took second place lady angler honors. Carson Dennis of Mt. Pleasant was third place lady angler for a 28.9 lbs. wahoo onboard *El Tejano*, owned by John Hill of Bronxville, NY.

The top dolphin weighed 47.5 pounds and went to Jimmy McDill of Murrells Inlet on the *Jubilee*, chartered by Charles Ragsdale of Georgetown. Top wahoo weighed 79.4 lbs. and went to angler

Boggs Howard of Greenville on the *At Ease*, owned by Steve Timmons of Greenville. Youth Angler Cordes Lucas, 14, of Charleston caught the largest yellowfin tuna, weighing 31.2 lbs., fishing onboard *Sportin' Life*, owned by Manly Eubank of Charleston. The first place youth angler award went to 12-year-old Chip Wall of Murrells Inlet, for releasing a sailfish onboard *Double Billed*, owned by Freddie Hyatt of Murrells Inlet. Cordes Lucas finished second in the youth angler category, while Zack Hulseberg, (age 14) of Eutawville placed third for his 25.3 lb. dolphin onboard *Billistic*, owned by his father Hutch Hulseberg.

The Blue Water Conservation Award went to the *Petrel*, owned by Harry Johnson, Jr. of Charleston for tagging and releasing 22 dolphin. Capt. Buck Morris of Charleston was presented the Wallace F. Pate Memorial Award for his lifelong contributions to the sport.



Jimmy McDill and his winning dolphin



Wahoooo!!!



Mark Becker, Brooke Gassel, and crew of "No Problem"



Bucky Buckner of "Sea Breeze" with a very nice blackfin

Mike McClamrock presented the "Wallace F. Pate Memorial Award" to Captain Buck Morris who is accompanied by Andrea Prettyman, who landed a sailfish in the 1st ever Georgetown Billfish Tournament.



Which one weighs the most?



Carson Dennis from "El Tejano" receives the 3rd place Lady Angler Award.



Julie gets her due



Pam Hanckel (r) presents the Top Lady Angler award to Linda Foster and "Chicora"



The future ----



"Rookie IV" takes top billfish at Georgetown



While fishing on "Sportin' Life", youth angler Cordes Lucas caught the 1st place Yellowfin Award



Top Wahoo Award went to Howard Boggs who fished on "At Ease"

'OLDE HATT' WINS BOHICKET TOURNAMENT

"*Olde Hatt*," owned by Gerry O'Meara of Atlanta, GA captured the Best Billfish Boat award Saturday, May 14, at the Bohicket Marina Billfish Tournament, the second of five tournaments in the 17th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

Tom DuPre', who coordinates the tournament series for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said "19 boats participated in the tournament with anglers greeted by ideal weather conditions, some of the best weather we've seen so far."

Final tournament results put *Olde Hatt* in first place with 175 points. *Olde Hatt* owner and angler Gerry O'Meara of Atlanta, GA, released a white marlin on Saturday. *Sea Fox*, owned by Ed Renken of Mt. Pleasant, finished second with 125 points for releasing a sailfish on Thursday caught by angler Eddie Langeland of Mt. Pleasant. The top dolphin weighed 51.1 pounds and went to Doug Ellison of Mt. Pleasant on the *Sea Trace*, owned by A.J. Kennedy of Hollywood. Top wahoo went to angler and owner Bob Faith of Mt. Pleasant on the *Caramba*. No yellowfin tuna were caught during the tournament. Top youth angler went to 11 year old Asa Wynne of Mt. Pleasant for his 21.7 pound dolphin onboard the *Petrel* owned by Harry Johnson, Jr. of Charleston and Lady Angler honors went to Julie Sullivan of Charlotte for her 33.2 pound dolphin fishing onboard *Olde Hatt*.

Sorry there are no photos from Bohicket, we didn't have a photographer.





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SCDNR MANATEE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Manatees inhabit the river and estuarine systems of South Carolina during the spring, summer and fall returning to southern warmer waters in the winter. They were observed in the state as early as 1850. During the summer of 1993, SCDNR began a project to document the abundance and distribution of manatees in state waters. Posters requesting information on manatees were placed in coastal marinas and several news releases were issued, with the surprising high result of 77 reports.

Regular reports were received for the entire coast, but most sightings were along the southern coast. The intention was to receive reports in time to travel to the site and attempt to identify individual animals, allowing biologists to identify at least a minimum number of individual manatees frequenting state waters. Repeated sightings of the same individuals would be evaluated. The intent was to use the extensive ID catalogues developed in the clear fresh waters of Florida to determine where South Carolina's manatees come from and whether the same manatees return. However, in South Carolina's productive but murky coastal waters, usually only the head of manatees can be seen. Identification is further complicated by the extensive growth of organisms on their backs, obscuring propeller scars frequently used to identify individuals.

A successful response to the 2004 sighting program produced 72 sightings representing 94 manatees reported either online or by phone. Sightings occurred in Horry, Georgetown, Charleston, Berkeley and Beaufort counties, with the majority reported in July. A map and several graphs for the website were created from the data provided.

The program will continue in 2005. It is hoped that the public will enthusiastically participate by encouraging others on or near coastal waters to help manatee conservation in our state by reporting sightings to SCDNR. Visit the website to learn more about manatees or to report a sighting <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/manatee/>. You can also report a manatee sighting by calling 843-953-9015. Your support is greatly appreciated.



SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES LEADERS (AFTER CHBWMCBT)

Outstanding Billfish Boat

Points: 2 Blues, 1 released,
1 landed - 563.5 lbs.,
1 White released, 1064 pts

Boat: *Chicora*
Owner: Frank Foster
Captain: Charles Moore

Outstanding Billfish Conservationist

Points: 2 Blues released
625 pts

Boat: *Jabez*
Owner: Carl Ulm
Captain: Carl Ulm

Blue Water Conservation

Points: 34 Dolphin (tagged)
1700 pts

Boat: *Petrel*
Owner: Harry Johnson Jr.
Captain: Thomas Wynne

Outstanding Billfish

Weight: Blue marlin, 881.8 lbs

Boat: *Rascal*
Owner: Norman Pulliam
Angler: Corky Taylor
Captain: Mark Rogers

Outstanding Dolphin

Weight: 65.7 lbs
Boat: *C-Dog*
Owner: Charlie Yeomans III
Angler: Earl Johnson



Outstanding Yellowfin Tuna

Weight: 35.0 lbs
Boat: *Guston IV*
Owner: Dennis Lee
Angler: Alexis Lee

Outstanding Wahoo

Weight: 79.4 lbs
Boat: *At Ease*
Owner: Steve Timmons
Angler: Boggs Howard

Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: Sailfish released
Boat: *Double Billed*
Owner: Freddie Hyatt
Angler: Chip Wall

Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Blue landed, 563.5 lbs.
Boat: *Chicora*
Owner: Frank Foster
Angler: Linda Foster



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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.