



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 11, No. 3 June 2006



THE CHARLESTON HARBOR RESORT & MARINA BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

19TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- May 3-6** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- May 17-20** *39th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- May 31-June 3** *Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- June 14-17** *Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- June 28-
July 1** *HMY/Viking MegaDock Billfishing Tournament*
Contact: K.C. Rennie
P.O. Box 759
Charleston SC 29402
843-278-4914 FAX 843-577-7704

For more information contact:

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

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!
Fish Responsibly!

Threats of bad weather didn't seem to stop the excitement offshore for many anglers during this year's competition. 57 competing boats had 48 releases – 31 blues, 7 whites, and 10 sails. *FishKiller*, of Murrells Inlet, one of the smallest boats in the tournament, took the Day One lead by releasing two blues and a sail. At the end of Day 1, 13 blues had been released, 1 white, and 9 sailfish. Louie Costa, aboard *Sportsman*, had the heaviest tuna for the day at 50.1 lbs.

Day Two saw a lot of meatfish and 11 blues and 3 whites released. *Caramba* moved into 2nd place above *Juncanewt* due to time of a blue marlin release.

Day Three still had a lot of releases, with 7 blues, 3 whites, and 3 sails.

Caramba released two blues and one sail to take home the 3rd place award. *Sportin Life* came in 2nd place with 750 pts for 2 blues and 1 white, and 1st place went to *FishKiller* for 1000 pts – 3 blues and 1 sail. The Conservation Award also went to *FishKiller*. Top Dolphin, 51.2 lbs went to Payton Dunn, a 15 yr old, aboard *Jabez*. Top Tuna, 50.1 lbs, went to Louie Costa on *Sportsman*, and Top Wahoo, 58.0 lbs, to Mark Spinner on the *Haphazard*.

All youth anglers under 10 years old were recognized and each received a trophy for their participation in the tournament; however, it was Kasey Dantzler, 14 yrs old aboard the *Dough Boy* who received the Top Youth Angler award for her blue marlin release. *Dough Boy's* Dantzler also received the Top Lady Angler honors.

Next up for the SC Governors Cup Series is the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament, June 14 – 17.

GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES SECOND ROUND RESULTS

The second tournament in the 18th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place at the Georgetown Landing Marina the weekend of May 17-20.

According to Series coordinator Tom DuPré, "The weather was dicey at best. Reports concerning the height of the seas were directly proportional to the size of the boat. The wind and rain did their best to dampen the festivities, but were not up to the task for this crowd in Georgetown."

48 boats entered the 39th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament. Over the course of the weekend, a total of 6 blue marlin were released, 1 blue marlin was tagged, 3 white marlin were released, 1 sailfish was tagged, and 1 sailfish was released.

DuPré said, "Thanks to a great staff at the Georgetown Landing Marina, the tournament went as smoothly as in any memory. Marina manager Rick Ferdon was presented a plaque by co-workers and friends as a token of appreciation for his 20 years of service to the tournament. Next year will be the 40th year for this Georgetown tournament, and they say it will be the best yet."

Points for Governor's Cup tournaments are awarded as follows: 300 points for a tagged or released blue marlin, 150 points for a tagged or released white marlin, and 100 points for a tagged or released sailfish. In addition, boats are awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of three events.

"Blue Boy" owned by Douglas Heaton of Charleston, won the Best Billfish Boat and raked in 600 points for catching and releasing two blue marlin.

Finishing in second place at the Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament was "Syked Out," owned by David Sykes of Isle of Palms. He amassed 500 points for a blue marlin released and two sailfish released. "Syked Out" also won the Conservation Award for their release of three billfish during the tournament weekend.

Third place honors for Best Billfish Boat went to "Sportin' Life," owned by

Manly Eubank of Charleston. "Sportin' Life" earned 450 points for catching and releasing a blue marlin and a white marlin.

Ed Renken of Mt.Pleasant, caught a 49.9-pound wahoo to earn the Largest Wahoo Award aboard his boat "Sea Fox".

The Largest Dolphin Award went to Chris Tucker of Blythewood, on "Bakbar," owned by Bakbar Marine Group of Mt.Pleasant. He reeled in a 59.6-pound dolphin.

A 54.7-pound yellowfin tuna caught aboard "Hattitude," earned owner and angler Steve Chryst of Myrtle Beach the Largest Tuna Award.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Holly McAlhany of Wando, on "Syked Out," owned by David Sykes of Isle of Palms, for catching and releasing a blue marlin.

Quinn Johnson from Beaufort, won second place honors for the Outstanding Female Angler Award for landing a 35.9-pound wahoo, a 24.3-pound dolphin, and a 9.4-pound skipjack tuna onboard "My Time Out," owned by Frank Gibson of Beaufort.

Third place honors for the Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Libby Kosnik of Columbus, OH, for landing a 30.2-pound dolphin on "Special Lady," owned by Ed Kosnik.

Jacob Henderson, 13, of Spartanburg won the first place Youth Angler Award for landing a 49.9-pound yellowfin tuna and an 8.3-pound dolphin on "Pace Maker," owned by Last Hurrah, LLC of Wilmington, DE.

Brandon Mitchell, 15, of Stanley, NC landed a 22.9-pound wahoo and a 22.3-pound dolphin to win the second place Youth Angler Award on "Trophy Hunter," owned by Mark Mitchell of Charlotte, NC.

Al DeLeon, 14, of Mt.Pleasant landed a 20.9-pound dolphin on "Emotional Rescue," owned by Michael DeLeon, also of Mt.Pleasant, to win third place honors for the Youth Angler Award.

Only one blue marlin was landed during the 39th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament. Angler and owner Greg Smith, of Anderson onboard his "Blue Sky" landed a 420.6-pound blue marlin.

Overall standings for the 18th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series after the second

tournament and with three remaining tournaments are as follows: "Blue Boy," 625 points, "Syked Out," 525 points, "Sportin' Life," 500 points, "Blue Sky," 470.6 points, and "Cookie Monster," 350 points.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR SOUTH CAROLINA BILLFISH CERTIFICATE?

If you are one of the fortunate anglers who lands, tags, or releases a billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, swordfish, or spearfish) off the South Carolina coast, you are eligible for an official state certificate documenting your angling achievement. Also eligible are anglers who tag and release billfish in other areas of the world as participants in the SC Marine Game Fish Tagging Program. The only requirement is that you contact a biologist with the Billfish Monitoring Program to provide information concerning your catch.

These certificates are being offered by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Office of Fisheries Management in cooperation with the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and the Marine Game Fish Tagging Program in an ongoing effort to document all billfish landed or released off the South Carolina coast. The program is designed to reinforce the importance of billfish to recreational angling in South Carolina and to provide vital life history information.

This program encourages the scientific tagging of released billfish.

Report your catch to:
SCDNR Billfish Monitoring Program
Office of Fisheries Management
P. O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422-2559
Phone (843) 953-9365
FAX (843) 953-9362
dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us

GEORGETOWN 2006



“Time is probably more generous to an angler than to any other individual. The wind, the sun, the open air, the colors and smells, the loneliness of the sea or the solitude of the stream work some kind of magic.”
excerpt from The First Thousand Pounder - by Zane Grey





**SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING
SERIES LEADERS
(AFTER CHARLESTON HARBOR)**

Outstanding Billfish Boat

Points: 3 Blues released
2 Whites released
1275 pts

Boat: *Sportin' Life*
Owner: Manly Eubank
Captain: Bobby Garmany

**Outstanding Billfish
Conservationist**

Points: 3 Blues released
2 Whites released
1275 pts

Boat: *Sportin' Life*
Owner: Manly Eubank
Captain: Bobby Garmany

Blue Water Conservation

Points: 24 Dolphin (tagged)
1200 pts

Boat: *Houdini*
Owner: Jim Shannon
Captain: Wayne Skinner

Outstanding Billfish

No eligible fish

Outstanding Dolphin

Weight: 51.2 lbs
Boat: *Jabez*
Owner: Carl Ulm
Angler: Payton Dunn

Outstanding Yellowfin Tuna

Weight: 50.1 lbs
Boat: *Sportsman*
Owner: James H. Simmons II
Angler: Louie Costa

Outstanding Wahoo

Weight: 58.0 lbs
Boat: *Haphazard*
Owner: Hap Kennerty
Angler: Mark Spinner

Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: 1 Blue marlin
Boat: *Dough Boy*
Owner: Ben C. Dantzler, Jr.
Angler: Kasey Dantzler

Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Blue marlin
Boat: *Dough Boy*
Owner: Ben C. Dantzler, Jr.
Angler: Kasey Dantzler



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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.