



TAG & RELEASE

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2006 GOVERNOR'S CUP AWARDS

The 2006 South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series awards reception was held September 17 at the Governor's Mansion in Columbia. Governor and Mrs. Sanford were most gracious hosts. Kudos go to Katherine Haltiwanger and the rest of the mansion staff for wonderful evening. The food was top-shelf with an assortment to please everyone.

Grilled pork tenderloin, New York strip, Cajun boiled shrimp, crab claws, low country egg rolls, bbq pulled pork and grits, and baked artichoke and spinach dip highlighted the menu. I heard only rave reviews from the attendees. Liquid Assets provided the refreshments.

The Deputy Director for Marine Resources, Robert Boyles, opened the awards presentations with comments describing the Series and its successes. Governor Sanford's remarks addressed the changes in the way anglers look at our valuable offshore species.

He noted that the release ethic embraced by Series fishermen has brought to South Carolina to the forefront in bluewater conservation. Thanks and recognition awards were presented to all the Series sponsors for their generous contributions that make the Series possible. SCDNR employees Nan Jen-

2006 SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES WINNERS

Outstanding Dolphin - 59.6 lbs., Chris Tucker (Georgetown)
Aboard BakBar owned by BakBar Marine Group, Captain Tommy Lewis

Outstanding Tuna - 54.7 lbs., Steve Chryst (Georgetown)
Aboard "Hattitude" owned by Steve Chryst, Captain Ken Crafton

Outstanding Wahoo - 79.6 lbs., David Thomas (MegaDock)
Aboard "Stream Weaver" owned by Rusty Carter, Captain Jon Huff

3rd Place Outstanding Youth Angler - 1 Blue marlin released (Charleston Harbor)
Bobby Faith (11) 300 pts. aboard "Caramba" owned by Bob Faith

2nd Place Outstanding Youth Angler - 1 Blue marlin released, (Charleston Harbor)
Kasey Dantzler (14) 300 pts. aboard "Dough Boy" owned by Ben Dantzler, Jr.

1st Place Outstanding Youth Angler - 4 Sailfish released (MegaDock)
Al DeLeon (14) 400 pts. aboard "Emotional Rescue" owned by Michael DeLeon

3rd Place Outstanding Lady Angler - 1 Blue marlin released (Georgetown)
Holly McAlhany 300 pts. aboard "Syked Out" owned by David Sykes

2nd Place Outstanding Lady Angler - 1 Blue marlin and 1 Sailfish (MegaDock)
(released) Libby Kosnik 400 pts. aboard "Special Lady" owned by Ed Kosnik

1st Place Outstanding Lady Angler - 53.0 Wahoo (Edisto), 1 Blue marlin (Bohicket), 1 White marlin and 1 Sailfish (MegaDock) (all billfish released)
Keegan Kennedy 550 pts. aboard "Sea Trace" owned by A. J. Kennedy

Blue Water Conservation - 27 Dolphin (tagged)
"Houdini" Owned by Jim Shannon, Captain Wayne Skinner Points: 1350

Outstanding Billfish Conservationist - 4 Blue marlin, 4 White marlin, and 3 Sailfish released
"Caramba" Owned by Robert A. Faith, Captain Dale Lackey Points: 2175

Outstanding Billfish Boat - 4 Blue marlin, 4 White marlin, and 3 Sailfish released
"Caramba" Owned by Robert A. Faith, Captain Dale Lackey Points 2175



kins, Amy Dukes, and Kris Reynolds were recognized for their many years of service to the Series with carved marlin trophies.

Advisory Board Chairman Darby and the Governor presented the winning boats and individuals with their Series winning awards. See the complete list on page 1. The highlight of the awards came when it was noted that between the six winners in the lady and youth angler categories, eleven billfish were released. That's quite a showing. There was a lot of handshaking and backslapping going on, and congratulations were offered by all. It was a great evening.





BILLFISH NUMBERS AND SUCH

I thought you folks might be interested in some fish numbers we have collected this year. Please bear in mind that these figures come from you. We talk to owners, captains, mates, anglers, marinas, dock hands, and just about anyone else who will talk to us. This is in addition to all the dockside interviews we conduct at the tournaments. I'll start out with data collected at the tournaments. Numbers in parenthesis are the previous year's totals.

A total of 133 (137) different boats fished the 2006 South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, and 78 (57) caught billfish. 336 (191) eligible fish were hooked, and 220 (127) were successfully landed. No eligible fish were brought to the dock, 12 (22) were tagged, and 208 (99) were released without tagging.

Of 135 (58) blue marlin hooked, 85 (32) were successfully landed. No eligible fish (6) were brought to the dock. 5 (9) were tagged and released, and 80 (17) were released without a tag. There were 96 (32) white marlin hooked and 54 (18) landed. 3 (4) were tagged and released and 51 (14) were released without tagging. 105 (101) sailfish were hooked and 81 (77) were landed. 4 (9) were tagged and 77 (68) were released without tagging. Crunching the numbers a little more shows that 63% (55%) of the blues hooked, 56% (56%) of the whites hooked, and 77% (76%) of the sails hooked were landed. The overall release rate for eligible billfish landed in the Series was 100% (95%).

During the 2006 Series the following data were collected for yellowfin tuna, dolphin, and wahoo: 49 (17) yellowfin tuna were reported caught, 27 of those were measured for length (38.7" avg.), and 21 were weighed (46.1 lbs. avg.). 1713 (1502) dolphin were reported, 649 measured (37.5" avg.), and 213 weighed (24.9 lbs. avg.). 102 (91) wahoo were reported, 61 measured (49.6" avg.), and 63 weighed (38.1 lbs. avg.). All of the totals and averages are increases over 2005.

Overall reported billfish catches for 2006, which include tournament and non-tournament fish, make it an above average year. Total blue marlin reported - 142 (57), white marlin - 78 (60), sailfish



Congratulations to our winners!



-218 (445), and swordfish-3 (9). Total -441 (571). The 1996 to 2005 ten-year average is 339.

With 126 (132) boats reporting 441(571) billfish, it works out to an average of 3.50 (4.33) per boat. Breaking this down further comes up with 1.13 (.44) blues, .62 (.45) whites, and 1.73 (3.38) sailfish per boat. 82 (85) boats reported multiple catches. The overall release rate for reported non-tournament billfish in SC was 98.4%.

Not included in the above totals are 3 fish tagged by 1 boat in non-SC waters.

If you caught billfish in SC waters in 2006 and have not received a state billfish certificate, please get in touch with me at (843) 953-9365 or at DuPreT@dnr.sc.gov. Certificates are issued for landed, tagged, or released billfish. Postage paid release cards are available. If you tag billfish outside of SC waters using SCDNR tags, you are also eligible for a certificate. If you tag billfish in SC waters using tags from another program, you are still eligible for a SC certificate, but only if you report it to the SCDNR.

The South Carolina Governor's Cup Advisory Board of Directors and the Tournament Committee will hold a combined meeting at 10:00 am, October 12, in the Conference Room at the NOAA Laboratory at Ft. Johnson.

The size limit for blue marlin eligible for bringing to the dock will be the main topic of discussion.

In its continuing bluewater conservation efforts, there is an ongoing dialog between the Advisory Board and the Tournament Committee to develop guidelines, which will meet that need. To further that goal, Advisory Board and Tournament Committee members feel that additional participant input is warranted.

This meeting is, as are all Series meetings, open to the public. Your active participation is invited. Please join us. Your input is welcomed and needed.

The NOAA Laboratory is on the right, just inside the gate to the SCDNR Ft. Johnson complex on James Island. Parking areas will be marked. For further information or comments, please call Tom DuPré at (843) 953-9365 or DuPreT@dnr.sc.gov.



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A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!

Fish Responsibly!

BILLFISH REPORTED LANDED IN SC WATERS IN 2006 - AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

Boat	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish	Swordfish	Boat	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish	Swordfish
Aggressor	1				Legacy			1	
Ali L	1				Legal Holiday	2	1	1	
Anticipation	1	2	10		L'il-Bit		1	1	
Assurething			1		Lock N Load	2			
Bak Bar		2	1		Lonesome Dove			1	
Bail Out	1				Lure Me			1	
Bentley's Best	4	2	1		Major Motion	4		6	
Billfisher	1	1	1		Mary Agnes		3	2	
Billistic	3		1		Mindset			1	
Black Magic			1		Mirage	2			
Bloody Bull			1		Miss Libby II			1	
Blue Boy	9	3	16		Miss WY IV	1	1		
Blue Endeavor	2				Mitchell's Contender			2	
Blue Heaven			1		My Three Sons	4	1	1	
Blue Sky	4	6	2		My Time Out		1		
Boatyard Blue	3				Navicula	2			
Bumpy Gin	1		3		Over Run		1	2	
C-Time	1	1	4		Overspray	1	1	1	
Caramba	2	2	10	3	Pharm-A-Sea	1	1	2	
Carolina Lady	1	2	2		Painkiller	2		3	
Catch 22			1		Prowess	3	2	12	
Cerveza	1	1			Raisin' Hayes	1			
Chasin			5		Rapid Pace	2	2	5	
Chicora			3		Rascal	3	1	3	
Christy II	2				Reel Deal	1			
Compromise IV			2		Reel Fun II		1	1	
Cookie Monster	2		1		Reel Love		1		
Dawg Due	2	1	2		Rigged Out	1	3	9	
Daymaker	2	1	1		Risky Business		1		
Desperado		1			Rookie IV		2	3	
Diamond II			1		Ruthie D			3	
Dilligaf	2				Salty Dog		1	2	
Dough Boy	2				Sea Baby	1			
El Tejano	3				Sea-Batical	1	1	1	
Emotional Rescue	1		4		Sea Fox	2			
Entropy	1				Seasonal Affair			1	
Fin-Addict	4	2	6		Sea Trace	1	1	1	
Final Answer			1		Sea Trial II			1	
Fish Dance			1		Second Love II		1	1	
Fish Killer	3		1		Shorter Pie	1			
Fishwrapper	1		5		Special Lady	1	2	1	
Frenzy	1	1			Sportin' Life	3	3		
Gamecock	2				Sportsman	1		1	
Game On	2	3	2		Summer Girl	4		4	
Gotta Go			1		Summertime Blues	1	1		
Great Escape			2		Sweet Deal			5	
Haphazard		2	2		Syked Out	2	2	6	
Hard Times II	1				Teaser			1	
Hatta Dream	1				The Seasession			2	
Hattitude	1				Thresher	1			
Hat Trick	1				True Blue			1	
Heavy Iron		2	4		Ultra		1	2	
Hey Doc	1	1			Unknown			1	
High Current	1				Waters Edge	2	1	2	
High Expectations			1		Water Witch			1	
High Maintenance	1		1		Yard Boy	1			
High Roller	2	1	2		Yella Jay	1			
Home Run	2	1	8		Yo Yo			1	
Hot Shot		1							
Houdini	4	1	3		Totals	142	78	218	3
Hoy Boy	3		1		Overall 441				
Ice Cobia	2		1						
Instigator		1							
Jabez	1		1						
Jon Boat		1							
Juncanewt	2		1						
Kriv O Cain			2						
Lazy Bonz	1		1						

Billfish Reported Tagged And Released Outside SC Waters - 2006

Boat	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish
Anticipation	1		2

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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.