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DNR



20th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Tournament Schedule...

May 14-17

Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament

Contact: Becca Smith
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC 29438
(407) 463-2082, FAX (843) 869-3738
smithbecca@gmail.com

May 28-31 41st Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P. O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, FAX (843) 546-7832
glmarina@sc.rr.com www.georgetownlandingmarina.com

June 25-28 Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina Billfish Tournament

Contact: Deidre Menefee
520 Folly Road #330
Charleston, SC 29412
(843) 345-0369, FAX (843) 406-4813
dpmenefee@aol.com

July 9-12

HMV/Viking MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

Contact: McKenzie Estes
P. O. Box 759
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 278-4920, FAX (843) 577-7704
mestes@megadock.us

July 23-26 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Deidre Menefee
520 Folly Road #330
Charleston, SC 29412
(843) 345-0369, FAX (843) 406-4813
dpmenefee@aol.com

For more information contact:

Amy Dukes
SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator
843-935-9365
dukesa@dnr.sc.gov <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>

Tournament Reflections

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find summaries of the fishing results of both the Edisto and Georgetown tournaments. However the information provided does not tell the whole story. Let me start by saying that it has been a pleasure meeting each of you and working at the Governor's Cup tournaments. Much of what these tournaments are about is what happens on the docks before and after the day of fishing. The camaraderie among the various boat owners, captains, crews, family and friends is apparent. Some boats may fish every tournament while others fish only one. Nevertheless, the stories that are told and the memories that are made are what these events are really about. For me it has been a pleasure to meet so many of the people who are involved, both directly and indirectly from marina owners to the dock crew and everybody in between. Each evening is like a large family reunion with everyone wishing each other good luck on the next day's fishing. Thanks for being a part of keeping this tradition alive and for allowing Amy and me to play an ancillary role. We look forward to seeing each of you as the summer progresses.

— Wallace Jenkins

First Round Results From The Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

The 2008 South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series began its five tournament season over the May 14-17 weekend at the annual Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament.

This year commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, a program coordinated by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that has accomplished much toward the promotion and enhancement of marine resources conservation, most notably the 99% release rate of billfish caught and tagged during the Series.

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Boats participating in the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series amass points for billfish either landed or caught and released. Tagging is optional and not required for Series points. Anglers compete for four major awards: Outstanding Billfish (single heaviest billfish), Outstanding Billfish Boat (most accumulated points), and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist (most points for tagged or released fish), and the Blue Water Conservation Award (most accumulated tag and release points for dolphin (50), yellowfin tuna (100), and wahoo (150). Points and awards are accrued during the Series tournaments and include 600 points for a blue marlin released, 300 points for a white marlin released, and 200 points for a sailfish released, all in good condition. Additionally, boats are awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of three events. The minimum size for consideration of Series points or awards for landed blue marlin is 110 inches measured in a curved line along the body from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw of the fish, and boats earn one point per pound for a landed blue marlin. By encouraging live tag and release, the Series has focused attention on the population status of Atlantic billfish and encouraged conservation of all marine resources.

Despite small craft advisories that prevented fishing on two days of the tournament's docket, fishing took place out of Edisto Marina on Thursday, May 15, with 26 boats participating in this Series tournament. Wally Jenkins and Amy Dukes, DNR employees who oversee the Series as the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Program Coordinator and Tournament Coordinator, respectively, said that the windy conditions did not dampen the enthusiasm of the tournament organizers, the participating anglers and residents of Edisto Island. "Even though we only had one day of fishing during this tournament, its great success helped kick-start the 20th season of the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series," according to Dukes. "We would like to thank the township of Edisto Beach for their hospitality and continued dedication to the Series," added Jenkins.

Jenkins and Dukes recorded 5 billfish caught and released by participating anglers during the one day of fishing on Thursday, including 2 blue marlin, 1 white marlin and 2 sailfish. A total of 79 dolphin were landed during the course of the day, as well as 3 tuna and 6 wahoo.

The Outstanding Billfish Boat at

Edisto was awarded to "Hoy Boyz," owned by Joe Hoy and captained by Johnny Hoy. Angler Jack Hoy caught and released a blue marlin, accruing 600 points. "Hoy Boyz" also earned top honors as the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist boat for the blue marlin release.

Second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to "Dough Boy," owned by Ben and Cynthia Dantzler. Ben Dantzler Jr. captained the boat and angler Kasey Dantzler caught and released a blue marlin. Kasey Dantzler, with her release of the blue marlin, also currently holds first place in the Series for Outstanding Female Angler and Outstanding Youth Angler.

"Bentley's Best" won third place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. The boat is owned by Steve Deese. Jim Moore was captain and angler Niall Kennedy caught and released a white marlin to earn the honors.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to "Jabez," owned by Carl Ulm and captained by Ben Polk. Angler Bobby Mims landed a 32-pound dolphin to earn top honors.

"Trashman" won the Outstanding Tuna award, with a 15.2-pound catch by angler Alex Marshall, Sr. "Trashman" is owned by Cannon Containers and captained by Robert Hollingsworth.

The Outstanding Wahoo award went to "Blessed Adventure," for owner and angler Ruby Robbe's 82.8-pound catch. Jim Bost captained the winning wahoo boat.

Alex Marshall Jr. won second place for Outstanding Youth Angler for a 30.3-pound dolphin catch aboard "Trashman."

Third place for Outstanding Youth Angler went to Cal Young for reeling in a 25.6-pound dolphin aboard "Finaddict," owned and captained by Danny Massalon.

Second place for Outstanding Female Angler in went to Jane Furrh on "Finaddict" who caught and released a sailfish to earn the honors.

Kelly Strickland won third place Outstanding Female Angler on "Hoy Boyz" for her 24.5-pound dolphin catch.

GREYSTAR

WANTED - Billfish Catch Reports

Attention SC Billfishing Anglers! Please report released and/or boated billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2008 fishing season. Anglers who release a billfish will receive a SCDNR Billfish Release Certificate. Who will be named this year's **"TOP CONSERVATIONIST BOAT OF THE YEAR"** by reporting the most billfish releases? Will it be you? To report billfish landings or to request billfish release cards contact Amy Dukes at 843-953-9365, or e-mail dukesa@dnr.sc.gov. The winning boat will receive a special award to be presented at the 2008 Governor's Cup Awards banquet in September. *Good Fishing!*

Second Round Results From The Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

The second tournament in the 20th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place at the 41st Annual Georgetown Landing Marina Billfish Tournament over the last weekend in May. Wallace Jenkins, Series Program Coordinator for the DNR, noted, "The weather conditions were excellent for offshore fishing, and we had three great days of fishing. Ricky Ferdon and all of the Georgetown Landing marina staff were once again top notch and a great time was had by all." Amy Dukes, Series Tournament Coordinator for DNR, added that a total of 53 boats participated in the tournament, with 34 billfish releases including 21 blue marlin, 4 white marlin and 9 sailfish. No billfish were landed.

The Outstanding Billfish Boat was awarded to "Roulette," owned by Richard Pingree and captained by Mike Glaesner. The boat's crew caught and released a sailfish on Thursday and 3 blue marlin and 1 white marlin on Saturday, accumulating a total of 2300 points.

Second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to "Dem Boys," owned by Tommy Hancock. Reid Bost captained the boat and caught and released 2 blue

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marlin on Thursday to accumulate 1200 release points.

"Overspray" won third place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. The boat is owned by Foster McKissick and Mike McClamrock is the captain. The boat's crew also caught and released two blue marlin to earn 1200 points.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to "El Tejano," owned by John Hill and captained by David Redd. Angler Kathy Baxley landed a 59.9-pound dolphin to earn top honors and secured her position to win top female angler in the tournament as well.

"Due Course" won the Outstanding Tuna award, with a 14.1-pound blackfin tuna caught by angler and boat owner, Richard Gatton. The boat is captained by Jamie Brown.

The Outstanding Wahoo award went to "Artemis," owned by John Darby for angler Canty Smith's 49.4-pound catch. David "Bucky" Copleston captained the winning wahoo boat.

Second place for Outstanding Female Angler went to Jenny Walker on "Frenzy." She caught a 48.6-pound wahoo.

Becca Hancock won third place Outstanding Female Angler on "Dem Boys" for her 31.8-pound dolphin catch.

Lauren Leasure won first place for Outstanding Youth Angler for a 31.1-pound dolphin catch aboard "Summer Girl." Lauren was the only youth angler to receive an award at the tournament.

For more information on the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series contact Wally Jenkins at (843) 953-9835 or JenkinsW@dnr.sc.gov, and Amy Dukes at (843) 953-9365 or DukesA@dnr.sc.gov. Visit the Web Site at <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/> to learn more about the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and to keep up with this year's standings.

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); U.S. Atlantic Billfish Tournament Management Measures

Effective January 1, 2008, The National Marine Fisheries Service regulations require anglers fishing from HMS permitted vessels and participating in Atlantic Billfish tournaments to use only non-offset circle hooks when deploying natural baits or natural bait/artificial lure combinations. The regulations allow the use of J-hooks (the hook-type traditionally used in this fishery) with artificial lures in tournaments and do not impose hook requirements on recreational fishermen

fishing outside of Atlantic billfish tournaments.

Circle vs. J Hooks

Several questions have come up at the Edisto and Georgetown tournaments as to the use of circle hooks. By federal law, if you are participating in a tournament that lists billfish as a target species you must use non-offset circle hooks with all natural baits (alive or dead), and on combination baits, a natural bait paired with an artificial lure. However if you are not a registered participant in a billfish tournament and simply "fun fishing" you may use J hooks with natural baits if you so desire.

Second, during both the Edisto and Georgetown tournaments folks asked us for a breakdown of hook ups by bait, hook type and billfish species. While on the surface the raw numbers (approximately 50/50 natural vs. artificial baits) might seem to provide insights into the effect of using circle hooks, we really do not have all the data we need to conduct an unbiased analysis and draw any real conclusions. During our survey we only

ask for the number of lines fished with no distinction between natural and artificial baits. We follow this question up by asking the type of bait for hooked and lost billfish as well as released or landed billfish. To get a true picture, we need to determine exactly how many of each type of bait each boat was pulling. For example, if few people were actually pulling natural baits, then the ratio of hookups would be skewed to artificial and vice versa if the majority of baits in the water were natural. From our perspective this question is worth pursuing and as a result in the future we will be asking additional questions during the survey so that we can get an accurate picture for hookup ratios between baits. These data will be important not only from a management perspective but also may improve hookup rates for competing boats.

We ask for your continued cooperation in answering these and other important questions, as we work together to conserve our billfish and other natural resources.



SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series LEADERS (After Georgetown)

Outstanding Billfish Boat
Points: 3 Blue marlin,
1 White marlin,
1 Sailfish released
2300 pts
Boat: Roulette
Owner: Richard Pingree
Captain: Mike Glaesner

Outstanding Billfish Conservationist
Points: 3 Blue marlin,
1 White marlin,
1 Sailfish released
2300 pts
Boat: Roulette
Owner: Richard Pingree
Captain: Mike Glaesner

Blue Water Conservation
Points: 3 Dolphin (tagged)
150 pts
Boat: Summer Girl
Owner: John Smith Jr.
Captain: Stevie Leasure

Outstanding Billfish
None landed

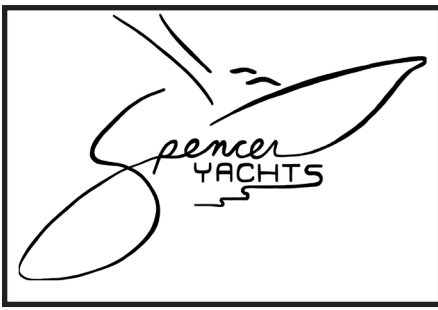
Outstanding Dolphin
Weight: 59.9
Boat: El Tejano
Owner: John Hill
Angler: Kathy Baxley

Outstanding Tuna
Weight: 15.2 lbs
Boat: Trashman
Owner: Cannon Containers
Angler: Alex Marshall, Sr.

Outstanding Wahoo
Weight: 82.8 lbs
Boat: Blessed Adventure
Owner: Rudy Robbe
Angler: Rudy Robbe

Outstanding Youth Angler
Fish: 1 Blue marlin released
Boat: Dough Boy
Owner: Ben & Cynthia Dantzler
Angler: Kasey Dantzler

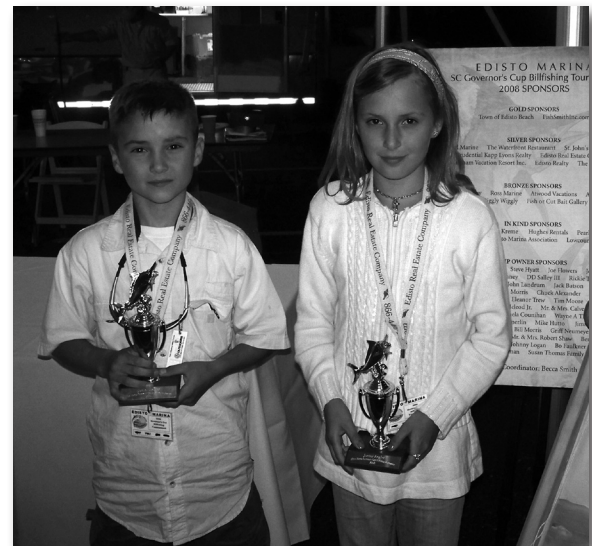
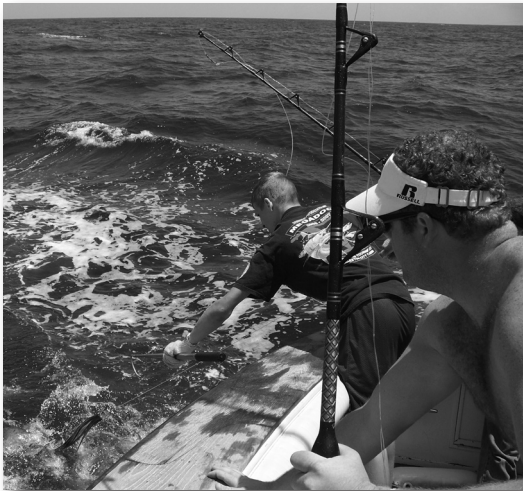
Outstanding Lady Angler
Fish: 1 Blue marlin released
Boat: Dough Boy
Owner: Ben & Cynthia Dantzler
Angler: Kasey Dantzler



Top 10 Series Boats/Point Standing

Roulette.....	2300	Trashman	1200	Hoy Boyz	600
Dem Boys	1200	NOFA.....	1200	Dough Boy	600
Overspray	1200	Evans B	1000	El Tejano	600
				Houdini.....	600

Good Times At The Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament





Good Times At The 41st Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament



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It's time for South Carolina hunters and anglers to purchase their 2008-2009 hunting and fishing licenses. Last season's licenses expire June 30, 2008. You can buy your South Carolina hunting and fishing licenses multiple ways:

- At DNR offices in: Charleston (843-953-9301) Clemson (864-654-1671)
Columbia (803-734-3838) Florence (843-661-4766)
- Visit one of the 800 license agents across the state
- By calling 1-866-714-3611 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week)
- Going online at DNR.SC.Gov

Licenses for the upcoming 2008-2009 season go on sale June 9 and are valid immediately after purchase. South Carolina hunters and anglers contribute funding for wildlife conservation and sportfishing restoration projects when they purchase a license or buy hunting and fishing equipment.

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.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202.

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