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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

HMY/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: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 768-1280 FAX (843) 768-3481
marina@bohicket.com

For more information contact:

Amy Dukes
SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator
843-953-9365
dukesa@dnr.sc.gov <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>

Tournament Reflections

Well it is hard to believe that the Series tournaments are over for the summer. It seems like only yesterday that we were at Edisto watching the wind blow out two days of fishing. Overall the season was quite notable for a number of reasons. A total of 224 billfish were released. This is the highest total number in GC Series history. The catch for the 4th year in a row was dominated by sailfish with 185 fish being caught and released. As recently as 2000, only 14 sailfish were released during the six tournament events. Since 2004 when only 25 sailfish were released we have observed a significant increase in the sailfish catch. Why this has happened is unknown, but during this same period we have seen yellowfin tuna virtually disappear from the Series catch. At present we have DNR staff reviewing the available data to formulate a likely hypothesis for the observed phenomenon, but that is a story for another day. As you read the rest of this newsletter you will see that the state record for dolphin was broken during the final tournament. Angler Ryan Riggs, owner Mark Daniels and crew of *Daymaker* were justifiably excited by the notable catch of a 77.5-pound bull dolphin on the next-to-the-last day of fishing in the Series. Interestingly, when the fish was cleaned a 5-pound partially digested female dolphin was found in its stomach. We collected ear bones, called otoliths, and tissue samples from this exceptional fish so that as the data are analyzed we can hope to gain a better understanding of the species' life history and population structure. The season has been notable for another reason, as during 2008 there were 240 entries in the Series tournaments. This is the second-highest total since the number of Series events dropped from 6 per year in 2002 to the current number of 5 events. This level of participation is remarkable considering the present economic conditions, which have witnessed significant declines in participation in billfish tournaments throughout the



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world, and demonstrates the support the Series has developed over the 20-year history within the South Carolina billfishing community.

As the season draws to a close and plans for next year have begun, we must not forget those who have given of their time to support and develop this great Series and foster billfish conservation. In particular I would like to thank Francis Johnson for his leadership during the past six years as an Advisory Board member culminating as Chairman during this last year. He certainly made Amy's and my jobs easier. In addition, after a 20-year record of service in various capacities, William "Sam" Hiott leaves the Advisory Board for a much-deserved rest. I am sure we will still be seeing both of these individuals in the future, and when you do, make sure to thank them as well. Finally, I also want to welcome to the Advisory Board Dixon Pearce and Johnny Cagle, each of whom has a long history as an exceptional fisherman and will along with the other outstanding Advisory Board members provide the insight and guidance to keep this Series among the best in the world. As a result of their efforts and those of others I am sure we can all look forward to another 20 years of Success!

—Wallace Jenkins



Cerveza Wins Third Round In Governor's Cup Series

Cerveza took top honors in the third round of the 20th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series at the Charleston Harbor and Resort Marina Billfish Tournament.

Amy Dukes, the Series Tournament Coordinator for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR), noted that 54 participating boats collectively caught and released 51 billfish, including 48 sailfish, 1 blue marlin, and 2 white marlin, over the course of the tournament weekend. Fishing was restricted to Thursday and Friday, as a small craft advisory prevented fishing on Saturday. Wallace Jenkins, the Series Program Coordinator for SCDNR added, "In spite of fishing being limited to only two days, there were a record number of billfish releases during Charleston Harbor tournament. During the two previous tournaments, only 5 billfish were released during the Edisto tournament, and 34 released at the Georgetown tournament, with no billfish being landed during a tournament this year."

Points for Governor's Cup tournaments are awarded as follows:

600 points for a tagged or released blue marlin, 300 points for a tagged or released white marlin, and 200 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.

The crew of *Cerveza* won top honors by releasing 11 sailfish, earning 2,200 points for the Outstanding Billfish Boat award. Thomas Russell, of Reston VA, owns the *Cerveza* and Butch Davis is captain. The crew, made up of mostly family members including Mr. Russell's father, Jim Russell, his brother Jeff, and his two children, 10-year-old Jessica, who received awards for first-place Outstanding Female Angler and second-place Outstanding Youth Angler for her two sailfish releases; and 15-year-old Mathew who was awarded first-place Outstanding Youth Angler for his 4 sailfish releases'. The *Cerveza* was also recognized for its 11 billfish releases and presented the award for Outstanding Billfish Conservationist Boat.

Second-place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Rascal*, owned by Norman Pulliam, of Spartanburg, and captained by Mark Roger. They earned 2,100 points for the catch and release of 9 sailfish and 1 white marlin.

Daymaker won the third-place award for Outstanding Billfish Boat. Owned by Mark Daniels and captained by Jay Weaver, the boat fishes out of Georgetown. The crew acquired 1200 points with 6 sailfish caught and released during the tournament.

The Outstanding Dolphin award went to *Short People*, owned by Aaron Nettles of Sullivan's Island. Angler Will Tayloe caught a 43.7-pound dolphin for the award.

Full Pull won the award for Outstanding Tuna, which was landed by angler and owner John Floyd, of Spartanburg, and weighed in at 17.8-pounds. The captain of the boat is Ed Keelin.

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!*

Angler and owner Billy Barnwell, of Mt. Pleasant, won the Outstanding Wahoo award for a 38.3-pound catch onboard *Bak Bar*, captained by Tommy Lewis.

Phillip Marshall, 12, of Charleston, won the third-place Outstanding Youth Angler award, for the catch and release of one sailfish on *Blue Heaven*, owned and captained by Blake Pearce, also of Charleston.

Anne Carlson took home second-place honors for Outstanding Female Angler, for her 35.7-pound dolphin caught aboard the *Rascal*, owned by Norman Pulliam.

Lori Raggazzini won the third-place Outstanding Female Angler award. Fishing on *Haphazard*, owned by Hap Kennerty of Charleston and captained by Scott Malindzak, Raggazzini landed the 25.8-pound dolphin to win the award.



Cerveza Wins Again Taking The Fourth Round In Governor's Cup Series

Cerveza took top honors in the fourth round of the 20th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series at the Charleston City Marina's



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HMV/Viking MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament, just two weeks after winning the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina Billfish Tournament.

Amy Dukes noted that 78 participating boats collectively caught and released 83 billfish, including 76 sailfish, 5 blue marlin, and 2 white marlin, over the course of the three-day event. Wallace Jenkins added, "The MEGADOCK tournament was the largest tournament among the 2008 Governor's Cup Series events and everything ran smoothly, despite inclement weather during two of the three days' weigh-ins. Robbie Freeman, McKenzie Estes, and all of the marina staff were very hospitable and were able to accommodate more boats than ever."

The crew of *Cerveza* won top honors and earned 1,200 points for the Outstanding Billfish Boat award, with the release of six sailfish. Thomas Russell, of Reston VA, owns the *Cerveza* and Butch Davis is captain. The boat was also recognized and awarded the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist for the six billfish releases. Russell's 13-year-old daughter, Nicole, was awarded first-place Lady Angler and first-place Youth Angler for releasing five of the six billfish caught during their two days of fishing.

Second-place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Petrel*, owned by Harry Johnson Jr., of Charleston, and captained by Thomas Wynne. They earned 100 points for the catch and release of one blue marlin and two sailfish.

Full Pull won the third-place award for Outstanding Billfish Boat, which is owned by John Floyd, of Spartanburg, and captained by Ed Keelin. The crew garnered 1,000 points with the catch and release of 5 sailfish during the tournament.

Angler Jason Zachrich aboard *Reel Patience*, owned by James Zachrich Jr. of Hilton Head and captained by Sammy Grayson, won the Outstanding Dolphin award for his 43.5-pound catch.

The Outstanding Tuna was awarded to angler and owner of the *Daymaker*, Mark Daniels, of Greenville, for his 17.6-pound tuna catch. The boat is captained by Jay Weaver.

The *Palmetto Pride*, owned by Anthony McAlister, of Mt. Pleasant, and captained by John McNamara, won the Outstanding Wahoo award for a 56.6-pound fish caught by angler Billy Ford.

The second-place Outstanding Youth Angler was John Dudash, 14, of Isle of Palms, for the catch and release of three

sailfish onboard *NOFA*, owned by Robbie Freeman, of Charleston, and captained by Will Freeman.

Thomas Garmany, 15, of Mt. Pleasant, won the third-place Outstanding Youth Angler award. Garmany caught and released three sailfish aboard *Benchmark*, owned by Stephen Davis, of Greenwood, and captained by Bobby Garmany.

Second-place honors for Outstanding Lady Angler were awarded to Holly McAlhany, of Wando, who caught and released four sailfish on *Syked Out*, owned by David Sykes of Isle of Palms, and captained by Dan Woody.

Kate Creech, of Mt. Pleasant, won the third-place Outstanding Lady Angler award. Creech released two sailfish aboard *Lil'Bit*, owned and captained by Pete Loy of Mt. Pleasant.

Daymaker Wins The Fianal Tournament In The SC Governor's Cup Series

Daymaker, owned by Mark Daniels, took top honors in the final round of the 20th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series at the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament this past weekend.

Wallace Jenkins said, "The Bohicket Tournament was a great location to end the 2008 Series, with many of the top boats fishing head-to-head to determine the eventual overall Series leaders. The intimate setting provided the perfect atmosphere for the crews and owners to celebrate the achievements of the Series for billfish conservation over the past 20 years. For the second time in three years no billfish were landed during any of the Series events, demonstrating the strong conservation ethic of the participants."

Amy Dukes noted that 29 boats participated in the tournament, and successfully caught and released 52 billfish, including 2 blue marlin and 50 sailfish.

The crew of the *Daymaker* had two great days of fishing, earning 1,400 points for the release of seven sailfish and winning top honors for the Outstanding Billfish Boat award. Mark Daniels, of Greenville, owns the *Daymaker* and the captain is Jay Weaver, with the boat's home port of Georgetown. Thursday's fishing adventure yielded three of the seven sailfish releases, the Outstanding Dolphin and the Outstanding Wahoo awards. Both meat fish were caught by angler Ryan Riggs, of Wando, and the

dolphin tipped the scales and weighed in at a whopping 77.5-pounds, crowning it as the new state record fish. The wahoo weighed in at 45.4-pounds. The boat's second fishing day on Saturday boasted an additional four sailfish releases to push them into the lead. The *Daymaker* was also recognized and awarded the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist for the seven billfish releases.

Second-place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Heavy Iron*, owned by Gregg Malphrus, of Ridgeland, and captained by Trey "Cricket" McMillian. They earned 1,200 points for the catch and release of six sailfish.

Lock n Load won the third place award for Outstanding Billfish Boat, which is owned and captained by Skipper Jellison, of Johns Island. The crew garnered 1,000 points with the catch and release of 5 sailfish all during a single fishing day on Saturday.

The Outstanding Tuna was awarded to angler Fred Bergen Jr. aboard *Legal Holiday* owned by his father, Fred Bergen Sr., of Savannah, GA, for his 28.7-pound tuna catch. The boat is captained by Matt Key.

Thomas Garmany, 16, of Mt. Pleasant, won the first-place Outstanding Youth Angler award. Garmany caught and released three sailfish aboard *Roulette*, owned by Richard Pingree, of Beaufort, and captained by Mike Glaesner.

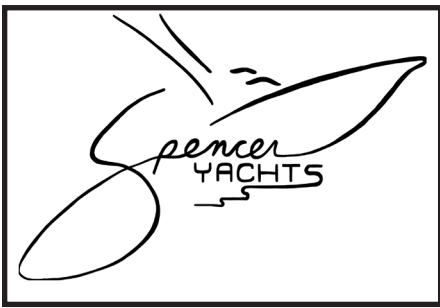
The second-place Outstanding Youth Angler was Beau Schmeusser, 10, of Wilmington DE, for the catch and release of two sailfish aboard *Cerveza*, owned by Thomas Russell of Reston, VA, and captained by Butch Davis.

Third-place honors for Outstanding Youth Angler were awarded to Bailey Walpole, of Wadmalaw Island, who caught and released two sailfish fishing with her father, John Walpole, aboard *KiKi*, which he owns and captains. Bailey was also awarded second-place Outstanding Lady Angler for her two sailfish releases.

Kathy Baxley, of Charleston, won the first-place Outstanding Lady Angler award, for the catch and release of a blue marlin. Baxley was fishing aboard *El Tejano*, owned by John Hill of Bronxville, NY, and captained by David Redd.

The third-place Outstanding Lady Angler award was presented to Lauren Leasure, of Charleston, for the catch and release of a sailfish on Friday. Leasure was fishing aboard *Summer Girl* owned by John Smith Jr., of Charleston, and captained by her father, Stevie Leasure.





Top 12 Boats from the 2008 SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series - Final

1) Cerveza	4275	5) Houdini	2475	9) Benchmark	1475
2) Roulette	3775	6) Petrel	2075	10) Evans B	1475
3) Daymaker	3775	7) NOFA	1875	11) El Tejano	1475
4) Rascal	3375	8) Miss Wy IV	1675	12) Heavy Irons	1475



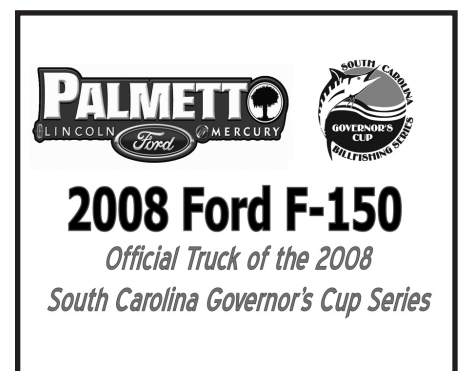
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be Boys!**





Just havin' fun!

Special appreciation and thanks goes out to Perry Peace of Georgetown, SC for his amazing photographic talent!



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Save The Date

The 2008 20th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Awards Reception will be held Sunday, September 14th from 5-7 pm at the SC Governor's Mansion in Columbia. Hope to see you there!

Marlin Watch

The upcoming October 2008 issue of Marlin Magazine will feature an article highlighting the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary! Please watch the news stands to pick up your copy!



Albury Brothers Boats



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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