Series Reflections…

New Beginnings

Well, another year has passed and I am sure most of us are glad to put 2008 behind us. During this time of year we begin planning for the 2009 Governor’s Cup Tournament season and the hope for good fishing with a large turnout at the various tournaments along the coast. As some of you may know, SCDNR receives no state appropriations for overseeing the Governor’s Cup Billfish Series. We must rely exclusively on private donations from the fishing community to ensure that the program activities continue. As such I wanted to devote this space to thanking our sponsors from the 2008 season, as well as to ask each of you who receive this newsletter to consider making a donation for the 2009 Series, so that we can maintain the level of quality and support from DNR that the Series has received in the past.

First and foremost I want thank the businesses who stepped forward to make significant financial contributions to the Series. Palmetto Ford was our Corporate Sponsor this year, donating $10,000; W.W. Williams and HMY Yacht Sales were Benefactor Sponsors, each donating $5,000; and The Charleston Angler, The Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and Wachovia Wealth Management each added $2,000 as Patron Sponsors. In addition, this newsletter would not have been possible without the contributions of Albury Brothers Boats, Blanchard Power Systems, Cannon Containers, CCA South Carolina, Haddrell’s Point Tackle and Supply, Hanckel Marine, HMY/ Viking Mega Dock Billfishing Tournament, Palmetto Props LLC, and Spencer Yachts, Inc., each of whom donated $1,000.

Second, I would like to acknowledge the time and energy that each of our Advisory Board members put into overseeing the program, as well as their
generous individual donations toward operation of the Series. The five
tournaments also made donations to the
Wallace Pate Fund, based on the number of
paid entries at their respective events.
Finally, a number of other businesses also
made donations toward the program.
All of these sponsors are listed on our
web site http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/
Sponsors/?sustain. Take a look when
you get a chance, and thank them
personally by spending your money at
their places of business. They support
your avocation, so please support them.
Through these private contributions, we
were able to raise over $65,000 toward
the operational expenses of the Series
and finish the year in the black for the
first time in several years.

While this year was a great success,
both from a fishing and operational
standpoint, we can not rest on our
laurels. Now we must begin fundraising
anew. Each level of support comes with
associated perks and benefits. Perhaps
most desirable would be that of the
Corporate Sponsor that receives ½
price entry fees to all tournaments in
which they participate. In this day of
$2,000 average entry fees, this incentive
could net $5,000 in savings for those
participating in all five tournaments.
Corporate sponsors also receive booth
space at each event and are included
in all tournament advertising, both
of which can result in significant cost
savings and increased exposure for your
company. In addition to the perks of
a Corporate Sponsorship, there are
many other benefits at each level of
sponsorship, all of which are listed later
in the newsletter. Please take the time
to consider becoming part of the SC
Governor’s Cup Team’s 20-year heritage
of excellence and prestige and contact
either Amy or me if you are willing to
help by making a contribution. I know
the summer can not get here fast enough,
as we look forward to another successful
year of billfish conservation.

We Need Your Help

As I mentioned earlier in my column
the Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series
relies solely on private contributions
to cover the cost to DNR for operating
the Series. These monies cover salary
time, as well as travel expenses associated
with attending and monitoring the
tournaments. Perhaps more importantly,
the funds are used to obtain the various
awards that are handed out annually, as
well as to support the publication of this
newsletter. Without these donations,
much of what you have come to know as
the Governor’s Cup would not occur. In
these tough economic times it is likely
that the most generous contributors
of the past will not be able to justify
the expense of such large donations;
however, this newsletter is sent to over
1,400 people five times a year, and a large
number of smaller donations could help
us reach our annual needs.

There are many levels at which to
give. Last year we had 31 donors and
received contributions ranging from $100
to $10,000. The benefits that accrue to
you or your company vary, depending
on the level at which you give. Everyone
who donates a minimum of $100 receives
an invitation to the annual Awards
Reception at the Governor’s Mansion.
Take my word for it; this is a very nice
event. Those donating $500 also get
mentioned on our website and in the
program of the awards ceremony. Those
who donate $1,000 (Newsletter Sponsor)
get their logo in every newsletter.
Anyone who donates $2,000 (Patrons)
also gets to use the Governor’s Cup logo
in their own advertising are included
in all Series advertising. Their company
brochures are also included in boat
registration packets for all tournaments,
and they receive a Recognition and
Appreciation Award at the reception.
At the $5,000 level (Benefactors),
companies get all of the above, plus a
place to put an advertisement banner
each tournament and three passes
to each tournament and series event
they choose to attend. Finally, at the
$10,000 level (Corporate) your company
will also be eligible for 50% discount
on boat registration for all five series
tournaments, six tickets to all Series
events they choose to attend, booth space
at each tournament, and inclusion in
individual tournament brochures and
advertising as Corporate Sponsor of
the Series. How can you afford not to
take advantage of this opportunity to
associate your company with the heritage
and prestige of the SC Governor’s Cup
Billfishing Series? All you need to do
to get started is fill out the pledge form
included in this newsletter and mail it
in! We look forward to your continued
support.

Did You Know?

Have you ever seen the actual
perpetual Governor’s Cup trophy in
person? How about any of the individual
trophies that are given out annually to
the winners of the various Series awards?
Well, they are individually hand carved
from wood and have been made by the
same family since the Series inception
back in 1989. Individuals receiving
the Series awards today are tied back
through the whole history of the Series
by this unbroken chain of awards. The
original trophy was commissioned in
1989 by Peter Costello of Port St. John,
Florida. Today, his son, Chris, carries
on the tradition, making all the hand
carved trophies for the Series each year
down in Cocoa, Florida. Peter continues
to work on nautical themed jewelry and
sustainability...Continued on page 3
custom-made cabinet hardware. Private donations received annually have made this tradition of quality and consistency possible. Finally, if you would like to order trophies for your own event or surprise your wife with something nice, please visit the Costello’s website at www.costellostudios.com. But don’t try to copy the SC Governor’s Cup trophies; we have exclusive rights to that design!

Getting prepared for your 2009 Fishing Season:

We thought we would provide everyone with a brief list of some of the permits, licenses and documentation that you will need to have so that the boat owner’s, captain’s and crew are ready for a successful fishing season.

1) Purchase your Atlantic HMS Angling Permit (Recreational) or Charter/Headboat Permit – All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally or of charter/ headboat vessels for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. Similar to Atlantic tunas permits, 2009 Atlantic HMS permits cost $16.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2009. Visit the NMFS website at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/PermitList.asp to apply for your permit.

2) Purchase your Dolphin Wahoo Permit – All owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels, are required to obtain an Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit for Dolphin/Wahoo. The permit is $25.00, and will be valid for one calendar year. Visit the NOAA Southeast Region website at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/forms/eezappwithshrimpmoratorium21.pdf to apply for your permit.

3) Purchase your Operator Card – All owners/operators of charter/ headboat vessels, are required to obtain an operator card when fishing for Atlantic Dolphin and/or Wahoo. The Operator Card fee is $50.00, and will be valid for three years. Visit the NOAA Southeast Region website at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/forms/OPCard.pdf to apply for your operator card.

4) Purchase your SC Saltwater Fishing License – All anglers (over age 16) fishing from a privately-owned vessel must obtain a SC Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License. Charter/ headboat vessels are exempt from having anglers purchase individual fishing licenses, as long as the fishing trip is documented in accordance to SC law under the vessels Charter License. SC Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License can be purchased at http://www.dnr.sc.gov/licensing.html or call 1-866-714-3611.

How to Join the Billfishing Team South Carolina
Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series

Fill out Donor Form below and forward to:
Wallace Jenkins / Amy Dukes
SCDNR
PO Box 12559
Charleston SC 29422-2559

Name:______________________________________________________________
Business Name:_____________________________________________________
Street Address/PO Box:_______________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State/Zip Code:_____________________
Donor Level $ _______________________________________________________

After receiving your pledge, an invoice will be sent to you for payment. When payment has been received, we will forward the appropriate promotional items for the donor level you have chosen and request an electronic copy of your business logo for use in the Governor’s Cup Newsletter, website Sponsor list, and other publications as appropriate.

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.