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DNR

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GREYSTAR

21st Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2009 Tournament Schedule...

May 13-16

Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament

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

May 27-30 42nd 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

July 8-11 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

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

As the season draws to a close, I have been barraged by reporters asking me to sum up the season, especially in light of the loss of two tournaments. The common thought from a layman's perspective is that it must have been a disaster to lose 40% of the scheduled events. In reality, what happened during the year was anything but disappointing and in my estimation, the season was a great success!! We



Walker Hoisington spotted this SC Governor's Cup Logo at Pete's Pub in Little Harbour, Abaco, Bahama

had incredible contributions from Sponsors, were able to have a successful Series, and cover our expenses. We also had three excellent tournaments with good participation at all three. At the Megadock Tournament, a record of 151 billfish were caught and released. It was not until 2006 that the total catch of the entire Series was equal to what was caught in this single event. In addition, during the Friday evening of the Megadock, over \$60,000 was raised to help support and establish the SC Memorial Reef. Finally, NO billfish were landed. I know some of you are not as excited about that last fact as Amy and me but during these days of gloomy economic forecasts this suite of facts points to the impact of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series on billfish conservation.

What the Series will forever have in its favor, no matter how many events are held each year, is that the SC Governor's Cup is one of the longest running billfish conservation events around today. These events are in sharp contrast to 25 years ago when almost everything that was caught was landed. The Series has been and continues to be a leader in this evolution towards the current focus on catch and release. In addition, the conservation message of the Series and other similar events reaches far beyond the shores of South Carolina. Perhaps I was not as cognizant of this as I should have been, but a recent vacation in the Bahamas gave me a better perspective on



Save the Date – The Annual
2009 South Carolina Governor's Cup
Billfishing Series Awards Reception
will be held Sunday, September 20th
from 5-7 pm at the SC Governor's
Mansion in Columbia. Hope to see
you all there!

the Series' legacy. During my stay in the Abacos I was shocked by the number of people who were aware of the SC Governors Cup Billfishing Series and the high esteem in which they held our group of tournaments and fisherman. Whenever I wore a Series Tournament T-shirt people would come up to me and ask about the Series. In addition, just about everywhere I went (OK, I went to a few bars) I saw stickers or other Series memorabilia displayed. Finally, during a stop at Treasure Cay where a Bahamas Billfish Challenge tournament was underway I was welcomed by the organizers and anglers as if I was an old friend. Yes, the Series impacts are of much greater scope than most imagine and while we would all like to have as many tournaments as possible each year, the conservation message remains the most important component of the Series and transcends individual events.

Amy and I look forward to seeing each of you at the Awards Reception at the Governor's Mansion in September and thank you for carrying our message around the world with you

Wally Jenkins



"Micabe" flying 5 sailfish release flags on Friday of the MEGADOCK Tournament.



Mike Larrow, owner of "Micabe" is flanked by crew members and Caroline Rhodes (left) and Dr. Malcom Rhodes (right) of "The Charleston Angler" as he accepts a check for winning the MEGADOCK Tournament.

MEGADOCK TRULY "MEGA" WITH RECORD CATCH AND RELEASE OF 151 BILLFISH

The final chapter of the 21st SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series went into the record books as the most productive three days of fishing in Series history. The final stop in this year's Series was held at the Charleston City Marina on July 9-11 and yielded more billfish releases during the course of the three-day tournament than have ever been witnessed in SC. With 74 boats participating in the HMY/Viking MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament, 151 billfish were released, eclipsing the old record for a SC Governor's Cup Series event by 20 fish. The majority of the catch was comprised of sailfish with 138 released, but blue marlin (5) and white marlin (8) were also caught and released during the tournament. "To put the catch in perspective, more billfish were caught and released during this one tournament than the total annual Series catch for all but 3 of the last 21 years," said SCDNR biologist and Program

Coordinator Wallace Jenkins.

One notable catch during the tournament was the recapture of a tagged white marlin aboard the "Cowboy" owned and captained by Wilbert Roller of Bluffton, SC. The fish was originally tagged for the Billfish Foundation by the vessel "So What" off the coast of Delaware near a fishing hole known to the locals as Poor Man's Canyon on September 14, 2008. The vessel is captained by Peter Fisher, and Charleston native Allen Davis was the mate. One could speculate that after the fish was tagged, it swam back south to winter and was once again traveling north when it was hooked



Kids at MEGADOCK enjoyed seeing the landed fish.

again during the tournament. Recaptures of tagged marlin are very rare and provide important information on billfish life history and migratory patterns.

The crew of "Micabe" won top honors in the tournament by earning 1,800 points to win the Outstanding Billfish Boat award, with the release of nine sailfish.



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WANTED - Billfish Catch Reports

Attention SC Billfishing Anglers, please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2009 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 releases or to request billfish release cards, please contact Amy Dukes at 843-953-9365, or email dukesa@dnr.sc.gov. The winning boat will receive a special award to be presented at the end of the 2009 fishing season. *Good Fishing!*



SCSG Series Winners — MEGADOCK 2009 Awards Summary



Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Micabe Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 9 sailfish released 1800 pts.	Outstanding Wahoo	Reel Hooker Owner/Captain: Bobby Krivohlarek Angler: Bobby Krivohlarek 59.0 pounds
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Miss Annie Owner: Barry Weshnak Captain: Matt Rabanstone 8 sailfish released 1600 pts.	Blue Water Conservation	Summer Girl Owners: Smith, Leasure, and Hooker Captain: Stevie Leasure Tag and release of 1 dolphin 50 pts.
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Rameseas Owner: Terry Wells Captain: Rock Wells 6 sailfish and 1 white marlin released 1500 pts.	Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Short People Owner: Aaron Nettles Captain: Andy Nettles Angler: Drew Nettles 20.9 pound dolphin
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Micabe Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 9 sailfish released	Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	None
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	None Landed	Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	None
Outstanding Dolphin	Blue Sky Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Steve Cramer Angler: Willy Bell 42.0 pounds	Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Flybuoy Owner: Gary Davis Captain: Todd Baxley Angler: Kathy Baxley 1 blue marlin, 1 white marlin, 1 sailfish released
Outstanding Tuna	Reel Passion Owners: Gary Richardson and William Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson Angler: Billy Ingram 21.1 pound blackfin	Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Fin-Addict Owner: Danny Massalon Captain: Jim Bost Angler: Tara Asbill 1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released
		Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Rameseas Owner: Terry Wells Captain: Rock Wells Angler: Rebecca Wells 3 sailfish released

Mike Larrow of Ridgeland, SC, owns the "Micabe" which is captained by Chris Jennings. The boat was also recognized and awarded the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist for the nine billfish releases.

Second place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to "Miss Annie," owned by Barry Weshnak of Palm Beach, FL, and captained by Matt Rabanstone, which finished with 1,600 points for eight sailfish releases. "Rameseas" owned by Terry Wells of Wilmington, NC, and captained by Rock Wells finished third with 1,500 points for releasing six sailfish and one white marlin.

Angler Willy Bell aboard "Blue Sky," owned by Gregg Smith and captained by Steve Cramer, won the Outstanding Dolphin award for his 42-pound catch.

The Outstanding Tuna was awarded to angler Billy Ingram for his catch of a



Big girl released during MEGADOCK by "Big Sky" owner Jim Johnston.



2009 South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

Final Standings



Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Micabe Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 1 blue marlin and 9 sailfish released Points: 2,475	Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	KIKI Owner/Captain: John Walpole Angler: Will Gould 29.4 pound dolphin
Outstanding Billfish Boat	Micabe Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 1 blue marlin and 9 sailfish released Points: 2,475	Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Blacksheep Owners: John Murdaugh and Lee Arnett Captain: Lee Arnett Angler: Buster Murdaugh 26.8 pound dolphin
Blue Water Conservation	Blacksheep Owners: John Murdaugh and Lee Arnett Captain: Lee Arnett 11 dolphin (tagged and released) Points: 550 points	Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Bench Mark Owner: Steven Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Boyce Campsen 25.6 pound dolphin
Outstanding Dolphin	Rapid Pace Owners: Sam Schirmer and Trey Banks Captain: Sam Schirmer Angler: Trey Sires 52.6 pounds	Outstanding Billfish	None landed
Outstanding Tuna	Christy II Owner: Thomas Pierce, III Captain: Hank Higgins Angler: Trey Pierce 27.9 pound yellowfin	Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	El Tejano & Flybuoy Owners: John Hill & Gary Davis Captain: David Reed & Todd Baxley Angler: Kathy Baxley 2 white marlin, 1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released
Outstanding Wahoo	Brainstorm Owner/Captain: Daniel Davis Angler: John Jameson 69.9 pounds	Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Fin-Addict Owner: Danny Massalon Captain: Jim Bost Angler: Tara Asbill 2 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released
		Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Rameseas Owner: Terry Wells Captain: Rock Wells Angler: Rebecca Wells 3 sailfish released

21.1-pound black fin tuna aboard "Reel Passion" owned by Gary Richardson and William Ingram.

The Outstanding Wahoo award was won with a catch of a 59-pound fish by owner and captain of the "Reel Hooker," Bobby Krivolarek.

First place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Kathy Baxley aboard "Flybouy" owned by Gary Davis and captained by her husband Todd Baxley. Over the course of two days of fishing Kathy released one billfish from each species in the tournament, earning 1,100 points and achieving a billfish Grand Slam which is outstanding in its own right.

Second place Outstanding Lady Angler was Tara Asbill who released one blue marlin and one sailfish to earn 800 points aboard Danny Massalon's "Fin Addict" which is captained by Jim Bost.

Rebecca Wells won the third place Outstanding Lady Angler award. Wells released three sailfish aboard "Rameseas."

The first place Outstanding Youth

Angler was Drew Nettles who caught a 20.9-pound dolphin aboard his grandfather Aaron Nettles' boat "Short People" captained by his father, Andy Nettles.

2009 Series Billfish Release Numbers

Number of Boats:	152
Billfish Released:	187
Blue Marlin:	28
White Marlin:	17
Sailfish:	142

Top Series Boats/Point Standing

1. MICABE	2475
2. ROOKIE IV	1750
3. OL' FISH N' GRITS	1650
4. DAYMAKER	1650
5. MISS ANNIE	1625
6. BARRIER ISLAND	1575
7. EL TEJANO	1550
8. RAMESEAS	1525
9. NOFA	1475
10. FIN-ADDICT	1475

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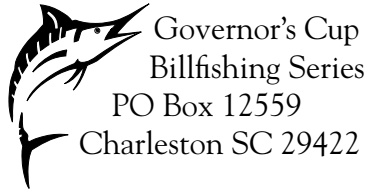
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UPCOMING EVENT

The Charleston Crab House will host the "Hit a Lick for Nick" Golf Tournament on September 11th to support the SC Memorial Reef. The cost is \$100 per player, Captains Choice, with many ways to win prizes including long ball, putting, and Hole in One. For Tournament info, please call Kim Jackson @ The Charleston Crab House, 843-795-1963 or kim@charlestoncrabhouse.com.

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The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.

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