As I sit here looking at the harbor being buffeted by 30 knot winds, I cannot help but be happy to be inside on a day like this. Just the walk across the parking lot out to the point of Ft. Johnson was brutal this morning. It also reminds me that during each of the last two years the fishing and boating industries have suffered under the cloud of an economic storm that for most of us younger than 80 is unprecedented. Somehow we managed to survive the loss of two tournaments in 2009 and things are looking up as we go into the 2010 fishing season back at full strength with five tournaments on the SC Governor’s Cup schedule. More good news is that the Megadock will not be limited to 75 boats this year and the Carolina Billfish Classic will be fished out of three ports, expanding the scope of the Series and potential prize money. The Georgetown tournament has a new director, John Horton, and a new tenant operating the restaurant; likewise, both the Bohicket and Edisto tournaments will see the reopening of small businesses and restaurants associated with each of those venues. And what could be better.
than spending a late summer week at the beach at Edisto to conclude the 2010 Series. The Series has been around for 22 years and I am sure it will go on for many years after we are gone because its conservation message is universal, timeless and important.

As some of you know, the Series is a unique public/private partnership overseen by SCDNR but all expenses related to operation of the Series come from private donations. During this time of the year we like to devote space to thanking our sponsors from the previous season as well as asking each of you who receives this newsletter to consider making donations for the 2010 Series so that we can maintain the same 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 in 2009. Jarrett Bay Boatworks and Greystar were our Corporate Sponsors last year donating $10,000 each; HMY Yacht Sales and Southern Lumber and Millwork were our Benefactor level Sponsors donating $5,000 each; and The Charleston Angler was our Patron Sponsor donating $2,000. In addition, the newsletter which you are reading would not have been possible without the contributions of Blanchard Power Systems, CCA South Carolina, Haddrell’s Point Tackle and Supply, Bergen and Bergen Law Firm, Palmetto Props and The Recreational Fishing Alliance each of whom donated $1,000. Second, I would like to acknowledge not only the time and energy that each of our Advisory Board members put into overseeing the program but also their generous individual donations that were made towards operation of the Series. The 3 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 varying donations toward the program. All of these Sponsors are listed on our web site http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/Sponsors/#sustain. Take a look and when you get a chance, please thank each of them personally by being a patron at their place of business. They support your avocation so support them. Through these private contributions we were able to raise over $63,000 toward the operational expenses of the Series and finish 2009 in the black.

While this year was a great success both from a fishing and operational standpoint, we can not rest on our laurels and must begin fundraising anew.

Each level of support comes with associated perks and benefits. Perhaps most desirable would be that of the Corporate Sponsor, whose boat receives 1/2 price entry fees to all tournaments they participate in, which in this day of $2,000 average entry fees could net $5,000 in savings when participating in all 5 tournaments. Plus, Corporate Sponsors 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. This is just one example; 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 22 year heritage of excellence and prestige. 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 for us as we look forward to another successful year of billfish conservation.

Wallace Jenkins

First Blue Marlin Release of the 2010 Season

Early on a Saturday morning in late February, the 5-man crew of the Edisto, SC, vessel “Plumber’s Wet Dream” set out for a day of offshore fishing. Timothy Redd, owner, and captain Charlie Marrow, along with Jeremy Parson, Robby Harrison and Benjamin Boyd were ready to see some action aboard the twin outboard 30’ Boston Whaler. Earlier reports showed some promise of a nice wahoo and tuna bite off the Charleston Bump, but these boys had their eyes set on a marlin. Shorty after getting lines in the water, the reel on the Shimano TLD 50 was screaming and on the other end of the rod was a beautiful lady! The first blue marlin catch and subsequent release of the 2010 fishing season! It took angler Parson just over 2 and half hours to bring her to the boat, and released her just after 10:30 in the morning in about 1300 feet of water. Congratulations…Nice fish! To schedule a fishing trip on the “Plumber’s Wet Dream” visit Ugly Ducking Charters www.edistofishingcharters.com.

Blue Marlin release.

As a charter member of the Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series, Edisto Marina is proud to host its 22nd annual event July 28-31, 2010.

This year’s tournament will be the most thrilling as it will be the final leg of the 2010 five event Series. With it’s unique charm and very casual atmosphere, Edisto Island embodies the lure of the Lowcountry Lifestyle.

The 2010 edition promises to be the best yet as plans are underway to expand activities for both participants and visitors alike.

To register for this year’s tournament or for more information go to www.edistomarinagovcup.com or contact Becca Smith at smithbeccae@gmail.com.
Luxurious apartment homes overlooking lush courtyards graced by tranquil ponds and moss-draped oaks. Greystar Daniel Island Village beckons you home to a simpler, more carefree time. Discover the joys of living in an island town surrounded by natural beauty. Come home and enjoy a relaxing walk along the trails that crisscross the island’s marshes and wetlands. Or perhaps, visit our clubhouse for a game of Wii, workout in our state-of-the-art fitness room then relax by our resort-style pool. Your retreat from the world awaits you!

Choose from a variety of 1, 2 & 3 bedroom floor plans. Floor plans have dramatic nine and ten-foot ceilings with crown molding, built in computer niches, private balconies, washer and dryer provided, 2-inch faux wood blinds, black GE appliances, built in microwaves, upgraded 42-inch custom cabinets, walk-in closets, oversized garden tubs and many more features! The townhome style floor plans are over 1600 sq. feet and very private with 2 levels!

Community Features include: distinctive low country views, lushly landscaped courtyards and green spaces, swimming pool, fitness center, clubhouse with fireplace and pool table, coffee bar, summer kitchen with barbecue grill, playground area, on-site nature preserve, spacious outdoor patio with Wi-Fi connectivity. Conveniently located right next to the Daniel Island walking trail with over 30 miles of trails, public parks and work out stations! Call or stop by today for your personal tour 843-849-1849, or visit our website at www.greystardanielislandvillage.com.

“All boats that fish the HMY-Viking Megadock Billfishing Tournament will receive a free haul out at the Charleston City Boatyard.”

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43rd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament
May 26th – 29th, 2010
Getting prepared for your 2010 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 owners, captains and crew are ready for a successful fishing season. Please Double Check Your Expiration Dates!!!

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 tuna permits, 2010 Atlantic HMS permits cost $20.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2010. 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/documents/Vesselapplicationpackage09Dec2009.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 SCDNR Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License.

SC Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License can be purchased at http://www.dnr.sc.gov/purchase.html or call 1-866-714-3611. Be reminded that SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are issued for the fiscal calendar, July 1 – June 30. Your current license will expire on June 30, 2010. Next year’s licenses, July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011, will go on sale on June 14, 2010. Make sure you get your new license before MegaDock and Edisto!

** 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 vessel’s Charter License. **

Meet South Carolina’s Newest Jarrett Bay ~ The 64’ Bench Mark

Launched in late December, the new Jarrett Bay 64’ Bench Mark is owner Stephen Davis and captain Bobby Garmony’s interpretation of the perfect sportfish. Chock full of innovations, such as the sofa lift so you no longer have to move cushions and panels to access rod storage underneath, and the engine room Sub-Zero freezer drawers for out of the way, yet easily accessed functionality, this battlewagon is designed for serious fishability. Step through the saloon door, and you’ll find one of the most casually refined and accommodating interior arrangements for a boat in her size range. With three staterooms that generously sleep eight, the entire family or a full crew comfortably enjoy extended time offshore and back at the dock. You’ll find the same sense of open comfort at the helm with Jarrett Bay’s trademark bench seating and built-in arm rest and cup holders. The business end of this battlewagon equally impresses with one of the most spacious cockpits you’ll find on the water, complete with numerous hidden storage areas and mezzanine seating to keep the deck clear when the bite is on. Last but not least, her CAT C32 ACERT powerhouses efficiently burn a less than 160gph cruising at a swift 38kts, and effortlessly beat the fleet back to the scales at her top end speed of nearly 45kts. It always gives us such fulfillment here at Jarrett Bay to provide sportfish enthusiasts with the opportunity to turn their boat building dreams into reality, and we are extremely grateful to Stephen and Bobby for providing us with this honor with the Bench Mark.

Specs
• Length - 64’ 0”
• Beam - 18’ 6”
• Draft - 5’ 10”
• Water Line - 58’ 0”
• Cockpit Area (sq. ft.) - 140
• Fuel Capacity (gal.) - 1,800
• Water Capacity (gal.) - 250
• Holding Tanks (gal.) - 50
As mentioned earlier in my column, the Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series relies solely on private contributions to cover the cost to DNR for operation of the Series. These monies cover salary time for Amy and me 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 part of the Governor’s Cup would not occur. In these tough economic times it is likely that former large contributors will not be able to justify the expense associated with past donations; however, this newsletter is sent to over 1,400 people 5 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 from as large as $10,000 to $50. Of course, varying benefits accrue to you or your company depending on the level at which you give. First, everyone who donates a minimum of $100 gets an invitation to the annual Awards Reception at the Governor’s Mansion, which is very nice. Those donating $500 also get mentioned on website and in the program of awards ceremony. Those donating $1,000 (Newsletter Sponsor) get their logo in every newsletter. Donating $2,000 (Patrons) allows for the Governor’s Cup logo in their own advertising, are included in all Series advertising, company brochures are included in boat registration packets for all tournaments, and they receive award recognition of appreciation at the Awards Reception. At the $5,000 level (Benefactors) companies get all of the above plus a place to put an advertisement banner at each tournament and 3 passes to all tournament and series events they choose to attend. Finally, at the $10,000 level (Corporate) your company will also be eligible for 50% discount in boat registration for all 5 series tournaments, 6 tickets to all Series events they choose to attend, booth space at each tournament and will be included 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.

Fill out Donor Form Below and Forward to:
Wallace Jenkins
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, web site Sponsor list, and other publications as appropriate.
Attention SC Billfishing Anglers, please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2010 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 2010 fishing season. Good Fishing!

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.

Total cost - $341.40
Total copies - 1,525
Total cost per copy - $.22

Printed on recycled paper.