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DNR

Volume 15, No. 2 April 2010



Series Reflections:

Amy and I are very excited about the upcoming fishing season. The schedule has been shaken up somewhat with Edisto now at the end of the Series and Bohicket kicking things off in mid-May. Plus, we are back at full strength with the addition of the Carolina Billfish Classic in late June. The concept of fishing out of multiple ports should be interesting, and efforts are being made to have live video feeds from each weigh-in on the internet as well as at each venue. In addition, we will be experiencing the 43rd year at Georgetown Landing and the 8th edition of the MEGADOCK. As you all know, the rules have changed somewhat with the Advisory Board's decision to lower the minimum size for a landed blue marlin from 110 to 105 inches. This change is likely to generate a great deal of excitement on the docks, as I anticipate seeing a blue marlin landed at every tournament. Do not fret, because Amy and I are very busy making sure that we establish relationships with billfish researchers from around the country to collect critical biological samples and other information from each fish landed so that our knowledge of blue marlin life history can be enhanced. A couple of examples of what will be collected are: the ovaries (all fish landed will probably be mature females), which will be worked up to determine the stage of maturity and potentially document the possibility that these fish are now spawning off our coast; and tissue samples preserved for genetic analysis, which will be used to document body burden of various chemicals and heavy metals. Since a fish weighing over 1,000 lbs was landed in North Carolina, we have purchased a new scale that will weigh a fish that large just in case someone is fortunate enough to land one of that size here. Personally, I am not sure Mr. Pulliam needs to worry about his record being broken, but it never hurts to be prepared.

Once again, we have some surprises in store for the boat bags that each participating vessel will receive from the Series. Of course, none of this would be possible without the marina and tournament organizers who assume all of the financial risk of hosting a Governor's Cup Billfishing Series event each year. Plus,

22nd Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2010 Tournament Schedule...

May 12-15 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 768-1280, FAX 768-3481
Marina@Bohicket.com
www.bohicket.com

May 26-29 43rd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: John Horton
P. O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, FAX 546-7832
jhorton@georgetownlandingmarina.com
www.georgetownlandingmarina.com

June 23-26

Contact: Deidre Menefee
1625 Savannah Hwy
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 345-0369, FAX 406-4671
dm@FishCBC.com
www.fishcbc.com

Carolina Billfish Classic

July 7-10 HMY/Viking MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

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

July 28-31

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

Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament

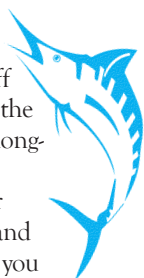
For more information, contact:

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

without contributions from donors, you would not see our staff collecting the data associated with the catch at each of these events. The long-term database that the Series has developed is extremely valuable for determining trends in the fishery and among the populations of the fish you all love to catch. We have been fortunate again this year that a number of donors have stepped forward to underwrite the SCDNR portion of the 2010 Series. Many of last year's sponsors are back, including: Corporate Sponsor Jarrett Bay Boatworks, Benefactor Sponsor Southern Lumber and Millwork, Patron Sponsor The Charleston Angler, and Newsletter Sponsors Bergen and Bergen Law Firm (Legal Holiday), Blanchard Power Systems, CCA South Carolina, Fairway Ford, Haddrell's Point Tackle and Supply, Palmetto Ford Lincoln Mercury, and Palmetto Props. Additional Sponsors include the HMY/Viking MEGADOCK Billfish Tournament and the Greenville Saltwater Sportfishing Club. We are also very excited to welcome Morris Nissan as a Corporate Sponsor along with Hanckel Marine, Lehi Baits as a Benefactor Sponsors, and Millwork Artisans as a Newsletter Sponsor. As we go to press, we are nearing our financial goal for the year, but we are always looking for additional sponsors.

I encourage each of you to participate in as many of the tournaments as you can. Register early so that the organizers can plan adequately to accommodate the fleet at each event. Finally, please thank all the individuals who sponsor the Series and remember to patronize their businesses. Hope to see you all at Bohicket May 12 – 15, 2010.

Wallace Jenkins





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May 12–15, 2010

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SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP

BILLFISHING SERIES

Tournament Guidelines - 2010



New guidelines are noted in a blue box.

1. Fish must be caught in accordance with all state and federal laws, and under IGFA regulations to qualify to earn SC Governor's Cup points or awards. All anglers, including Youth Anglers (under sixteen years of age on April 1 of current tournament year) and Lady Anglers (over sixteen years of age on April 1 of the current tournament year), must strike their fish in order to be eligible for series points or awards. After a fish strikes, only the angler is allowed to touch the rod. Once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate or is wound to the rod tip, then the angler may have assistance to catch and release or boat the fish. Series points will accrue towards Series awards for these fish. Vessels may provide assistance to other vessels for boating fish.
2. White marlin and sailfish are catch and release only. Tagging is optional and not required for points. The minimum size

for Series points or awards consideration for landed blue marlin is 105 inches measured in a curved line along the body from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw (LJFL). Federal regulation dictates that a boated billfish cannot be returned to the water.

Note: 105 inches exceeds the federally mandated minimum size limit. Should the federal size limit be increased, the minimum size for blue marlin eligible for weighing in SC Governor's Cup Series tournaments will be increased automatically to exceed the new minimum size by two (2) inches if required.

3. A penalty of 600 points will be assessed against a boat for each blue marlin brought to the dock not meeting the minimum South Carolina Governor's Cup Series size requirements.
4. Boats guilty of wanton waste of fish taken in a Series event will be disqualified from earning points in that event.



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43rd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 26th – 29th, 2010



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES



Tournament Guidelines - 2010 - Continued

5. All landed fish are to be iced or refrigerated until such time as they are released by tournament officials to the boat, after which no more than three hours may pass before the edible tissue is processed and the carcass is disposed of.
6. Scoring for eligible billfish weighed-in is based solely on those points officially awarded each boat by each tournament. Boats earn one point per pound and fraction of a pound for their single heaviest billfish weighed in each tournament. No points are awarded for additional billfish weighed in any one tournament.
7. Only blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish are eligible for billfish catch and release points. Tagging is optional and not required for points. **Billfish boated for any reason will not qualify for release points.** Scoring for billfish caught and released in good condition is as follows:

Blue Marlin	600 points
White marlin	300 points
Sailfish	200 points

8. To qualify for catch and release points, a billfish must be fought to the boat according to program guidelines. A billfish is considered caught when: 1) the leader is grasped by the mate or the leader is wound to the rod tip. (A leader may be no longer than 30 feet); 2) the billfish is positively identified; and 3) the fish is released in a healthy condition. Boats are encouraged to remove the hook or to cut the leader as close as possible to the hook.
9. Billfish may not be brought into the boat unless it is to be brought to the dock for weighing.
10. Any billfish gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured in an attempt to boat the fish will not qualify for catch and release points. Additionally, if the gaff crosses the vertical plane of the boat and the intent of the crew is to land the fish, yet the attempt is unsuccessful, the boat will not qualify for catch and release points.
11. For a vessel to qualify any billfish for points, every person aboard the

vessel 18 years of age or older must sign an affidavit swearing that all rules and regulations were observed in reference to the described fish. Failure of any person to sign, for any reason, disqualifies that fish. In addition, all released billfish must be clearly photographed (preferable photo would include a visible dorsal fin) at time of release by each vessel using a digital camera provided by the vessel. The image must include a time and date stamp that corresponds to the time of release recorded by the tournament designated committee boats. Photos must be provided in jpeg format on a removable storage device, and will be used to confirm species identification, release information, and will be used to resolve potential conflicts or formal protests.

12. Affidavits must be completed the day the catch and release or landing occurs, except when a medical emergency involving the boat's crew prohibits completion of the form or when a

Billfish Classic

JUNE 23-26 2010

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SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES

Tournament Guidelines - 2010 - Continued

mechanically disabled boat cannot return within the prescribed weigh-in period. In these instances, the forms must be completed and returned within ten (10) days of the catch and release. If applicable by the individual tournaments, boats fishing out of other marinas or ports must fax or hand-deliver the completed catch and release affidavit **and email digital (jpeg format) release images** to tournament headquarters prior to the close of the weighing scales on the day of catch with the exception as noted above.

13. Boats will be awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of three events. A boat's points total will include participation points as indicated along with points for landed or caught and released billfish from all tournaments fished. Points will count toward aggregate point totals for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. Points cannot be transferred from one boat to another.
14. Boats must fish a minimum of two Series tournaments to qualify for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. Vessels fishing only one tournament qualify for Outstanding Billfish, Youth Angler awards, Lady Angler awards, and Outstanding Dolphin/Wahoo/Tuna.
15. In the event of a tie, the boat accumulating their points the earliest shall be the winner. If a tie still remains, the boat fishing in the most Series events will be declared the winner.
16. Tournament awards will be presented for the heaviest tuna, dolphin, and wahoo caught by boats participating in the Series and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Youth Anglers (under sixteen years of age) and Outstanding Lady Anglers (over sixteen years of age). The tournament awards for Youth and Lady Anglers will be awarded for the heaviest tuna, dolphin or wahoo if no Youth or Lady Angler has landed or caught and released a legal billfish. Billfish caught by Youth or Lady Anglers will earn regular Series points for the species. Series awards for non-billfish species will be awarded for largest tuna, dolphin, and wahoo.

17. A Blue Water Conservation Award will be presented to the boat accumulating the most points tagging dolphin (50 points), yellowfin tuna (100 points) and wahoo (150 points). All fish must be caught on legal Series tournament fishing days and tagged using official tags supplied by the Marine Resources Division's Marine Gamefish Tagging Program. Completed tagging reports will serve as official entry forms and must be submitted to Marine Resources Division personnel working the tournament or the weighmaster on the same day the fish was tagged.
18. Creel limits for dolphin are 10 per angler per day with a limit of 60 per boat per day, with no minimum size restriction. Creel limit for yellowfin tuna is 3 per angler per day with a minimum legal size of 27 inches curved body fork length, **see current federal size and creel limits for other tuna species**. Creel limit for wahoo is 2 per person per day.

Note: Size or creel limits will automatically be changed in SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series tournaments to reflect changes in federal or state laws.

19. All awards are presented to the boat. Invitations to the annual Governor's Cup awards reception are limited to winning boat crews and to boat owners whose boats fish two or more yearly Series events.
20. It is the intent of the S.C. Governor's Cup to encourage release of healthy billfish, therefore the use of 130 lb. class line is allowed.
21. A boat owner may request an official ruling from the S.C. Governor's Cup Series. The request for a ruling must be submitted in writing to a member of the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall rule on the request within seven (7) days. Any ruling of the Tournament Committee may be appealed by writing to the Board of Directors within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding weekend days and holidays. The Board shall render results of an appeal, in writing, to the appellant within thirty (30) days. All decisions of the Board are final. All rulings will focus solely on compliance with Governor's Cup Series rules, not individual tournament rules.



July 7-10, 2010

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



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 its 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.edistomarina.govcup.com or contact Becca Smith at smithbecca@gmail.com.

Conservation Boat of the Year 2009

Well, the billfish reports have been tabulated, and it is our pleasure to announce that the "2009 Top Billfish Conservationist Boat of the Year" was *Rookie IV*, owned by Mr. Edgar Buck Sr. of Charleston and captained by Jay Champlin,

with 46 billfish releases reported throughout the year. It came down to the wire in December between the *Rookie IV* and the *Syked Out*, owned by David Sykes, which reported 41 billfish releases in 2009, but

Rookie IV pulled away in the end to release the highest total. The boat received an award totaling \$500 in gift certificates from two of our Sponsors: Haddrell's Point Tackle and Supply and The Charleston Angler. How long do you think it took

them to spend that getting ready for this season? Nevertheless, Mr. Buck, his son Eddie Buck Jr., and Bob Barrineau were on hand to accept the award from SCGC Program Coordinator Wallace Jenkins. In addition, Mr. Buck would like to



acknowledge everyone who participated in this yearlong effort, including Captain Jay Champlin, Mate Ford Rivers, and anglers Charlie and West Rivers

who were unable to attend the award presentation. Who knows, perhaps next year your boat may be able to win this award? Report your releases to Amy Dukes at DukesA@dnr.sc.gov or call her at 843-953-9365.

2009 Billfish Recap: Numbers and Such

As you all are aware, the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series was established to promote the state's great offshore fishing and encourage anglers to conserve the ocean's natural resources by promoting catch and release of billfish and other game fish. Before the Series began in 1989, virtually all captured billfish were killed and brought back to the docks. The Series continues to actively encourage the conservation of marine resources. The partnership between the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and SCDNR has provided an important link to the sportfishing community, and allowed for an extremely efficient and cost effective means for gathering data.

The 2009 Series was a very challenging year, as we lost two of our long standing tournaments. We are thrilled to resume a five tournament Series in 2010 with the Bohicket Marina Tournament returning, and are very excited about a new tournament commencing this year, the Carolina Billfish Classic. Even though we only hosted three tournaments in the 2009 Series, we still had an outstanding year for participation, and some amazing fishing. 152 boats participated in the Series, catching a total of 187 billfish (142 Sailfish, 28 Blue Marlin, and 17 White Marlin), all of which were released alive. This 100% release rate will significantly contribute to the future of billfish populations.

In addition to the Series Tournament data, SC Governor's Cup staff acquire data on all trips where billfish were released throughout the fishing season. This is only accomplished because SC anglers in our sportfishing community (boat owners, captains and anglers) continue to maintain a close relationship with SCDNR and report their billfish releases.

Including the SCGC billfish release numbers above, SC anglers reported a total of 748 billfish releases off the S.C. coast. The subtotal reported by species was: 646 sailfish, 57 blue marlin, 42 white marlin, and 3 swordfish. Now THAT is some good fishing!

NASCAR Driver Jeff Burton Commissions Landmark Jarrett Bay 46' Custom Sportfish



Jeff's primary sponsor - Caterpillar - to Power Boat With Cat® Engines

Beaufort, NC (March 24, 2010) - Jarrett Bay Boatworks is excited to publicly announce details of our new 46' Sportfisherman project quietly started in January 2010 for one of NASCAR's most notable and respected drivers, Jeff Burton.

Plans are to deliver this landmark build to the Burton Family in under a year, and thanks to a media partnership with Marlin Magazine, families will be able to follow along with the construction through weekly photo updates, time lapse video pods, and even a blog about the custom build by Jeff himself.

After 13 years supporting NASCAR, and the second season as the primary sponsor of Jeff's No. 31 Caterpillar Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet, it was a natural choice for Burton - an avid sportfisherman - to power his boat with Cat® engines. The 46' is Jarrett Bay's first pod drive-powered custom build featuring Cat® C9 ACERT® engines with Zeus® Pods, rated at 575 hp. Spending much of his time on the water with his wife and two children, Jeff sought the additional interior roominess afforded by the small footprint of the pods. Their reliability, fuel economy, and amazingly intuitive joystick control, combined with the efficient hull design of a Jarrett Bay, will provide the Burtons a unique blend of control and performance.

Very involved with every aspect of his race car's design and performance, Jeff is taking the same lane with the development of his custom Jarrett Bay. After a lifetime of hands-on experience with a wide range of boats, and a keenly innovative personality, Jeff has provided Jarrett Bay with a wish list of unique features, some never before seen on a sportfish, which will be incorporated into the overall styling and functionality of his 46' - and all truly custom for Jeff and his family.

Jeff, an outspoken leader on safety within the sport of NASCAR, has 21 Sprint Cup Series triumphs during a Cup career which dates back to 1994. He currently sits seventh in the 2010 championship standings.

Bookmark Jarrett Bay, Marlin Magazine and Jeff Burton's websites, and check back often to follow along with a boat building experience like no other.

Jarrett Bay Boatworks 46 Specifications

Length Overall:	46' 4"	
Beam:	15'	
Draft:	4' 4"	
Freshwater Capacity:	50 gallons	
Fuel Capacity:	600 gallons	
Weight Displacement:	47,500 lbs	
Engine Power:	Cat® C9 ACERT® engines with Zeus® Pods, rated at 575 hp	

SAVE THE DATE!

The Harry Hampton Marine Conservation Auction and Banquet will be held on Friday, August 13th, 2010. For further details, please visit www.hamptonwildlifeandfund.org/.

Major Sponsors



Governor's Cup
Billfishing Series
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WANTED!

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!

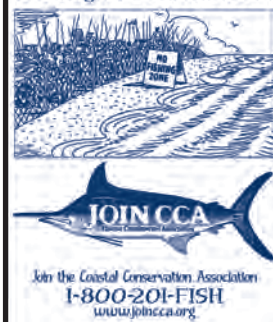
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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental 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 - \$365.30

Total copies - 1,525

Total cost per copy - \$0.24.



Printed on recycled paper.

10-6991