Planning is well underway for this summer’s suite of Series events, and most of the timing and event locales will remain unchanged with one exception. The Carolina Billfish Classic (CBC) was thrown a curve ball in mid-October and forced to locate to a new venue, settling on Toler’s Cove Marina in Mt. Pleasant. They are currently formalizing plans, but it is evident that the due to space limitations at Toler’s the tournament will allow fishing out of several different Charleston-area marinas, and potentially Georgetown as well. The CBC and several other tournaments will also have an “Under 40” category to encourage participation from smaller boats. Who would have ever thought that a boat under 40 feet would be classified as small? Back in the day when Governor Campbell came up with the concept for the Series, boats in this size range were the norm rather than the exception.

As we enter our 23rd season, it is important that we take a moment and thank the businesses that made the 2010 season such a success. As most of you should know, the Series is a unique public/private partnership overseen by SCDNR. All expenses related to operation of the Series are covered by private donations. First and foremost, I want thank the businesses who stepped forward to make significant financial contributions to the Series in 2010. Jarrett Bay Boatworks and Morris Nissan/ Hanckel Marine were our Corporate Sponsors last year, donating $10,000 each; LEHI Baits and Southern Lumber and Millwork were our Benefactor Sponsors, donating $5,000 each; while 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, Bergen and Bergen Law Firm, Blanchard Power Systems, CCA South Carolina, Haddrell’s Point Tackle and Supply, Millwork Artisans, and Palmetto Props, 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 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. We would like to thank all of our tournament owners and directors for your support and commitment to the Series. A number of other businesses also made varying smaller donations toward the program, which were also appreciated. Finally, as reported in the last newsletter, Mr. Bob Faith, owner of Caramba and the 2010 Series Winner, donated $20,000 to the Series at our Awards Reception last September. Mr Faith is the owner of Greystar Real Estate, and I am sure he would love for you to invest in a condo at one of his many properties both here in Charleston and around the region. 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, thank each of them personally by spending your money at their place of business.

While 2010 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. There are many levels at which to give; last year we had 32 donors and received contributions from $50 to $10,000. Of course there are varying benefits that 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. Those donating $500 also get mentioned on our website and in the program of awards ceremony. Those donating $1,000 (Newsletter Sponsor) get their logo in every newsletter. Those donating $2,000 (Patron Sponsor) also get to use the Governor’s Cup logo in their own advertising, are included in all Series advertising, their company brochures are included in boat registration packets for all tournaments, plus they receive recognition of appreciation at the Awards Reception. At the $5,000 level (Benefactor Sponsor) 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 chose to attend. Finally, at the $10,000 level (Corporate Sponsor) your company will also be eligible for 50% discount in boat registration for all 5 Series tournaments, 6 tickets to all Series events they chose to attend if a boat is not registered, booth space at each tournament, and will be included in individual tournament brochures and advertising as a 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.

Wallace Jenkins
In January, we began the celebration of our 25th year in business. We have big plans to celebrate all year, starting with the launch Jeff Burton’s boat at the Miami Boat Show in February. I believe this is a perfect way to showcase a quarter century of innovation since this boat is a complete departure from any sportfishing boat built in the modern era and is another testament to the innovation and dedication of our family, much like that displayed 24 years ago. Throughout 2011, we will be recognizing a person each month that has made considerable contributions to our success. In January we honored my dad, Cab Ramsey, who is the foundation of Jarrett Bay and all that we have been able to accomplish over the last 25 years. This month, we celebrate one of the forefathers of custom Carolina boat building, Omie Tillet. Omie’s generosity with his boat building knowledge and sense of family have been a guiding force in all we do at Jarrett Bay. It is with great pride that I share the contributions of these two great men, and the many others to come.

I hope you’ll take advantage of the merchandise & service specials listed here, stay tuned to JarrettBay.com and follow us on Facebook & Twitter for more year-long celebration details & promotions. It has been an honor to be part of Jarrett Bay and I am humbled by the dedication and confidence others have had in what we could do together. While times have not always been easy one thing is for sure, together we can accomplish great things today, and for the next 25 years.

Thank you!
Randy Ramsey
President
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.