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DNR

Volume 16, No. 2 April 2011

Atlantic
Game & Tackle



23rd Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2011 Tournament Schedule...

May 11-14 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

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

May 25-28 44th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: John Horton
P. O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, FAX 546-7832
glmarina@sc.rr.com

June 22-25

Contact: Deidre Menefee
1625 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 345-0369, FAX 888-758-3950
dm@fishcbc.com

Carolina Billfish Classic

July 6-9

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

MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

July 27-30

Contact: Becca Smith
3702 Docksites Road
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438
(407) 463-2082, FAX (843) 869-3738
smithbecca@gmail.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/>

Series Reflections

To coin a phrase from Motorsports: "Gentleman, start your engines". Yes, the summer is fast approaching, and while the past winter has been a rough one, we have high expectations for a great tournament season! First, I want to thank the new and continuing sponsors who as of press time have stepped up to support DNR's role in the Series for 2011. At the Corporate level (\$10,000) we have Palmetto Ford, returning after a 2 year hiatus, plus first-time sponsor Atlantic Game and Tackle. Then Haddrell's Point Tackle and Supply, which has been a Newsletter Sponsor for many years, decided to up the ante and become a Benefactor Sponsor (\$5,000) for the first time, joined by The APEX Automotive Group, another new sponsor. At the Patron level (\$2,000) we have The Charleston Angler returning for their fourth year, along with newcomer Citadel Enterprises. Returning Newsletter Sponsors (\$1,000) include CCA, Blanchard Power Systems, and long time sponsor Palmetto Props. We would also like to recognize a retuning Newsletter Sponsor from previous years, Spencer Yachts, Inc. In addition, we thank our Advisory Board members and each Tournament for their financial support, and Southern Lumber and Millwork for agreeing to produce awards for the third year in a row. As we go to press, we are still about \$13,000 shy of our budget goal for the year, and I hope to be welcoming additional (insert your name here) sponsors in the next Newsletter.

The BIG news for this year is that for the first time in six years there are **NO** Governor's Cup rule changes for the 2011 season. Yes, you read that right. It is hard to believe it has been that long, but at the end of the day, the Advisory Board decided that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Even though there are no changes, we have included the rules in this Newsletter so that you can get re-aquainted with them before you head out fishing. The rule that caused the most consternation last year was the time and date stamp on billfish release photos. In fact, Amy and I, along with the various tournament committees, had to disqualify a few fish last summer, which resulted in changes in placement on at least one occasion. While it used to be that the mates were the most important people on the trip, don't leave the photo

documentation to chance. Make sure you have extra batteries and memory cards, and ensure the time and date stamps are correct on your cameras so that all your effort will not be in vain. In addition, please take the time to review your vessel documentation, permits, and licenses and make sure they are up to date. As we all know, the first rule of the Series is that you must obey all state and federal regulations. A list of the permits you need can be found on page 5 of this Newsletter.

There is more good news to report, and that is that boats have recently begun to once again catch yellowfin tuna off of our

coast. It has started with a trickle this spring, and our hope is that as the season moves forward, we will once again see these beautiful fish landed in the Series.

Finally, even though we have seen a rise in fuel prices due to the events in the Middle East, it is my hope that that will have subsided somewhat by tournament time. Your tournament organizers have spent the entire winter planning for the upcoming season, and we hope that each of you will try to participate in as many events as possible, as each is unique and memorable. Amy and I, along with Willie, look forward to seeing you on the docks in just a few weeks. *Wallace Jenkins*



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HOW TO JOIN THE BILLFISHING TEAM

South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series



Fill out Donor Form below and forward to:

Amy Dukes
SCDNR
PO Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422-2559

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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.



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SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES



Fishing Guidelines - 2011

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.

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 the edible tissue is to be processed and the carcass is disposed of. Boats landing Blue Marlin will have a maximum of three hours to complete this task.

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 at 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.

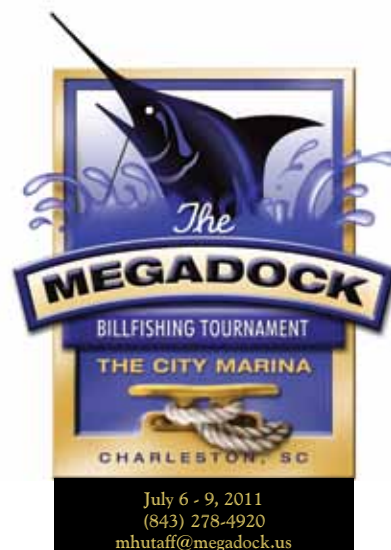
10. Any billfish gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured in an attempt to boat the fish will not qualify for catch and release points. Additionally, if the gaff crosses the vertical plane of the boat and the intent of the crew is to land the fish, yet the attempt is unsuccessful, the boat will not qualify 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 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.

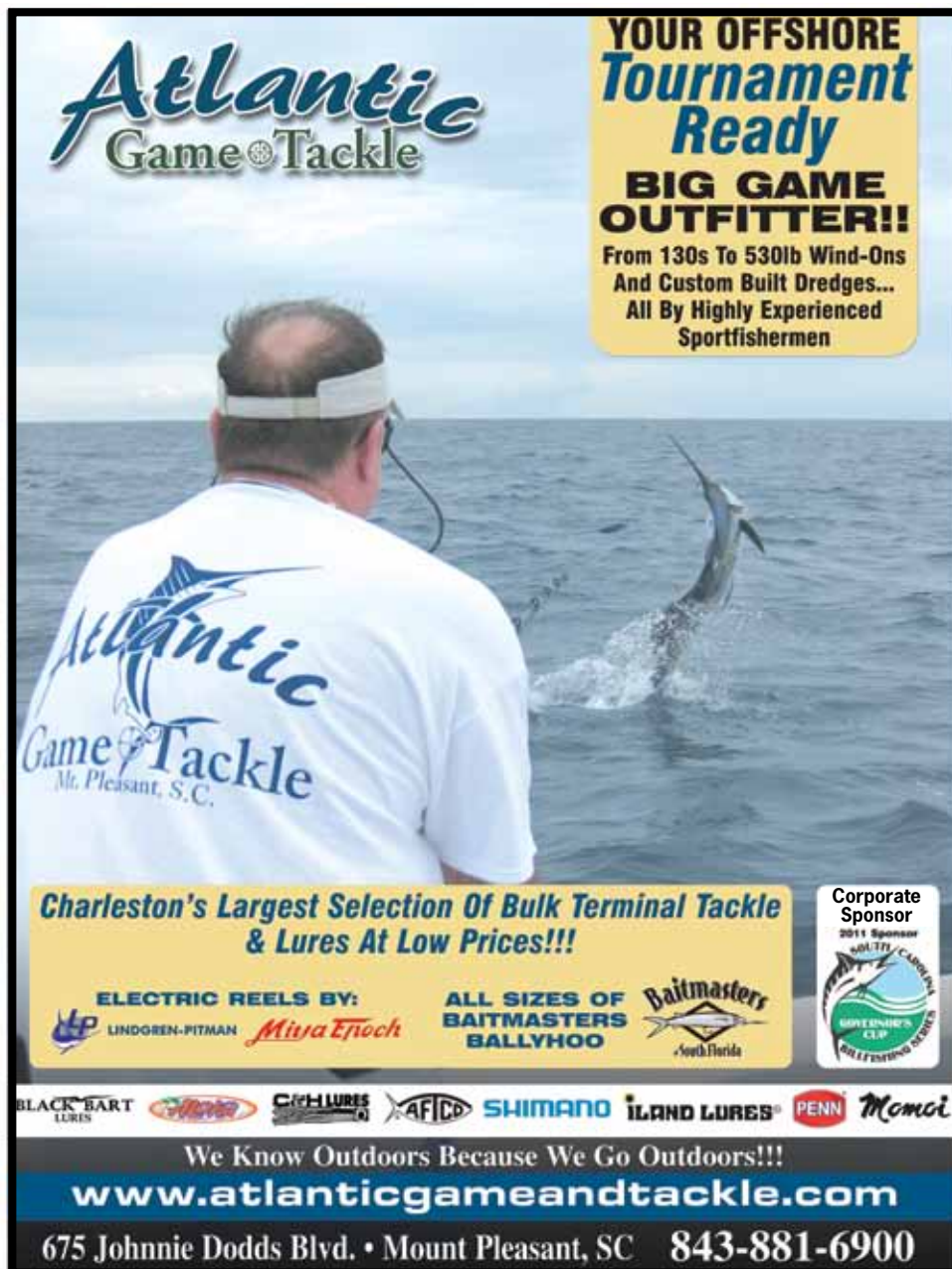
18. Creel limits for dolphin are 10 per angler per day with a limit of 60 per boat per day, with no minimum size restriction. Creel limit for yellowfin tuna is 3 per angler per day with a minimum legal size of 27 inches curved body fork length, **see current federal size and creel limits for other tuna 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. **Voting individuals representing either the Tournament Committee or the Board of Directors will recuse themselves from the decision if there is a conflict of interest.** All rulings will focus solely on compliance with Governor's Cup Series rules, not individual tournament rules.



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Getting prepared for your 2011 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!!!

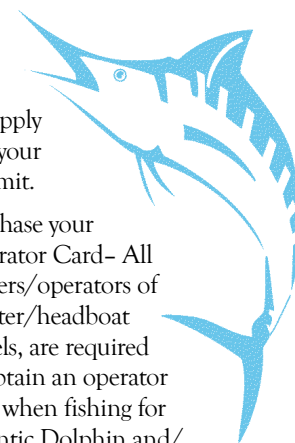
- 1) Purchase your Atlantic HMS Angling Permit (Recreational) or Charter/Headboat Permit- All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally, or owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish 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, 2011 Atlantic HMS permits cost \$20.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2011. 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/Veselapplicationpackage09Dec2009.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) 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 most SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are issued on the fiscal calendar, July 1 - June 30. Your current license will expire on June 30, 2011. Next fiscal licenses, July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012, will go on sale on June 13, 2011. Make sure you get your new license before MegaDock and Edisto!

** Charter/ headboat vessels are exempt from having anglers purchase individual saltwater fishing licenses, as long as the fishing trip is documented in accordance to SC law under the vessels Charter License. The vessel can only have six anglers, captain and crew on board. **

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Attention SC Billfishing Anglers, please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2011 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 2011 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.

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