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DNR

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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 Hutaff
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 Docksite 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

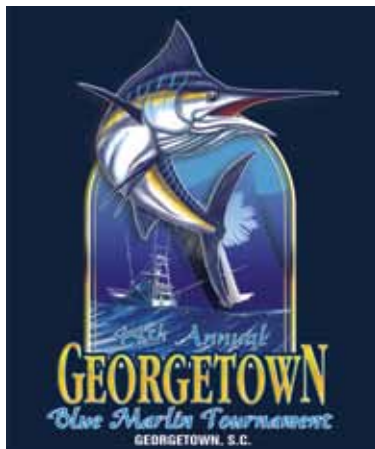
To borrow a term from surfers, the only thing that can be said about the billfishing at Georgetown last month was that it was "EPIC"! Marlin were literally almost jumping in the boats. If you don't believe me, just ask the crew of Gage Blue's boat Sadie Beth, who showed us a video of a blue marlin hitting the transom during a leap at the boat. In three days of fishing, 33 boats managed to release 45 billfish, with 30 of them being white marlin. To put that in perspective, only one time since 2000 has there been more than 18 white marlin released during all the Series events combined. That was in 2006, when a total of 54 white marlin were released during Series events. That summer 37 whites were released during the Mega Dock tournament, but remember, more than twice as many (n=75) boats were fishing. You may ask what is going on, is the white marlin population rebounding from what the NMFS considered nearly at an endangered status just a few years ago? That is a good question, but it is still too early to draw any conclusions. That is where the SC Governor's Cup and other data collection initiatives come into play! Amy, Jesse, and I are there to document fishing activities, and if this trend continues, we will report back to you the theories that our fisheries scientist offer to explain what we are witnessing. Again, this is why the efforts of SCDNR and the Series are so important to the long-term health and management of these populations. A second benefit, some of you who fish offshore may not realize, is the opportunity these tournaments present to educate the public on the status of the stocks of billfish as well as the dolphin, wahoo and tuna species which are landed. Most of these folks have never seen one of these fish other than on a seafood counter or a dinner plate. Seeing them in person and being able to touch them, see their magnificent colors, and other characteristics instills a desire to see these fish preserved for future generations. Let's face it, the billfishing community is not that large, but the people we interact with at the tournaments who have never been offshore can be important allies in the fight to preserve these resources. With that said, I encourage each of you to bring fish to the scales at each event so that the public can see them not only for the reasons mentioned above, but also so

that the tournaments can draw crowds and sell their events. Even if you know that your fish will not beat the current leader, I am asking you to bring at least one of each species you land to the scales to be weighed in. None of these events stand alone; they need sponsors and the participation of the general public (buying T-shirts or other merchandise) just to cover their expenses. The crowds at Edisto do not come just to see big beautiful boats pull in, they are also there to see the FISH. So please do your part to help preserve the future of these events by giving them what they came for. See you on the docks and at the scales!

Wallace Jenkins



Angler Stockely Holder's 73.8-pound wahoo catch at Bohicket aboard Big Sky, owner Jim Johnston and deck boss, Bill Church.



1ST ROUND RESULTS 2011 SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES — BOHICKET MARINA INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The first tournament in the 23rd season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place May 11-14 at the Bohicket Marina and Market on Seabrook Island. The Series features five tournaments along the coast, which began with the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament, and will end July 30th at the Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament.

Wally Jenkins, Series Program Director for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), said "The billfish bite was good, with three blue marlin, eight white marlin, and one sailfish releases by 21 registered vessels. The winning vessel, Reel Passion even released a Grand Slam (plus one) during their Friday fishing trip: one blue marlin, two white marlin, and one sailfish. As usual, both the Bohicket Marina and Market staff were very hospitable, and Red's Ice House was a perfect venue from which to watch the sunset each evening."

The tournament's Outstanding Billfish Boat and the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist were awarded to Reel Passion, owned by Bill Ingram, of Charlotte, NC and captained by Gary Richardson. The winning boat earned 2,000 points for the catch and release of one blue marlin, four white marlin, and one sailfish. Even though the owner was the angler on two of the billfish releases, he gave all the credit to the other three anglers, Thomas Garmany, Bruce Gallup, and Wil Thornhill, as well as to his captain, Gary.

Daymaker, owned by Mark Daniels of

Greenville, SC and captained by Jay Weaver, earned second place Outstanding Billfish Boat, with 900 points awarded for the catch and release of one blue marlin and one white marlin.

Third place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to Emily Bliss, owned by Mike Chukusky of Edisto, SC and captained by Abe Kuhn. The crew caught and released two white marlin to garner 600 points.

Rock N Reel, owned by Susan and Allen Bell of Bennett's Point, SC and captained by their son Chris Bell, was the Blue Water Conservation winner with the tag and release of three dolphin over the course of the tournament.



The crew of the Reel Passion accept their Outstanding Billfish Boat award.

Blue Sky, owned by Greg Smith of Pawleys Island, SC and captained by Steven Crammer, earned honors for the Outstanding Dolphin. Greg Smith was the angler that caught the 30.6-pound dolphin.

Emily Bliss took the Outstanding Tuna award. The 11.6-pound Skipjack tuna was caught by John Crislip.

The Outstanding Wahoo award was earned by Big Sky, owned and captained by Jim Johnston of Georgetown, SC. Angler Stokely Holder caught the 73.8-pound wahoo.

Amy Bennett of Charleston, SC earned top honors as Outstanding Lady Angler for the release of one white marlin aboard Rodeo. Second place Outstanding Lady Angler went to Helen Yochum of Johns Island, SC for her 10-pound dolphin catch fishing aboard Trinity V. An 8.2-pound dolphin earned Molly Bundy of Mt. Pleasant, SC third place Outstanding Lady Angler.

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2011 Winners — Carolina Billfish Classic • Bohicket • Georgetown — Awards Summary

AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Reel Passion Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 1 Blue Marlin, 4 White Marlin and 1 Sailfish released 800 pts.	Sportin' Life Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 2 Blue Marlin and 2 White Marlin released 1800 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Daymaker Owner: Mark Daniels Captain: Jay Weaver 1 Blue Marlin and 1 White Marlin released 900 pts.	Daymaker Owner: Mark Daniels Captain: Jay Weaver 4 White Marlin and 1 Sailfish released 1400 pts.
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Emily Bliss Owner: Mike Chukusky Captain: Abe Kuhn 2 White Marlin released 600 pts.	Miss Wy IV Owner: Ed Holder Captain: Matt Wilkinson 1 Blue Marlin and 2 White Marlin released 1200 pts.
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Reel Passion Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 1 Blue Marlin, 4 White Marlin and 1 Sailfish released 2000 pts.	Sportin' Life Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 2 Blue Marlin and 2 White Marlin released 1800 pts.
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	None Landed	None Landed
Outstanding Dolphin	Blue Sky Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Steve Crammer Angler: Greg Smith 30.6 pounds	Mirage Owner: Bill Monckton Captain: Homer Angler: Billy Monckton 38.4 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	Emily Bliss Owner: Mike Chukusky Captain: Abe Kuhn Angler: John Crislip 11.6 pound Skipjack	Bench Mark Owner: Stephen Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Wil Thornhill 10.0 pound Bonita

Top Series Boats/Point Standing after Georgetown			
Reel Passion	3250	Rodeo	950
Daymaker	2350	Bench Mark	925
Sportin' Life	1850	Dem Boys	925
Miss Wy IV	1225	Rascal	750
Emily Bliss	950	Can't Complain	625

AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN
Outstanding Wahoo	Big Sky Owner/Captain: Jim Johnston Angler: Stokely Holder 73.8 pounds	Reel Patience Owner: James M. Zachrich Jr. Captains: Stefan Patrick Angler: Charlie Byars 12.6 pounds
Blue Water Conservation	Rock N' Reel Owner: Susan and Allen Bell Captain: Chris Bell Tag and Release of 3 dolphin 150 pts.	Caramba Owner: Robert Faith Captain: Dale Lackey Tag and Release of 8 dolphin 400 pts.
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	None	Sadie Beth Owner: Gage Blue Captain: Howard Moseley Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 6 11.2 pound dolphin
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	None	Caramba Owner: Robert Faith Captain: Dale Lackey Angler: John Taylor, Age 12 6.6 pound dolphin
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	None	None
Outstanding Lady Angler 1st Place	Rodeo Owner: Michael Bennett Captain: John McNamara Angler: Amy Bennett 1 White Marlin released	Syked Out Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 2 White Marlin released
Outstanding Lady Angler 2nd Place	Trinity V Owner/Captain: Frank Feltham Bradham Angler: Helen Yochum 10.0 pound dolphin	Rodeo Owner: Mike Bennett Captain: John McNamara Angler: Amy Bennett 2 White Marlin released
Outstanding Lady Angler 3rd Place	Miss Grace Owner/ Captain: Pat Welsh Angler: Molly Bundy 8.2 pound dolphin	On The Hook Owner: James Bass Captain: Sammy Grayson Angler: Keenan Grayson 27.0 pound dolphin

Billfish Release Numbers					
Tournament Name	Number of Boats	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish	Total Released
Bohicket	21	3	8	1	12
Georgetown	33	6	30	9	45



Lot's of flags flying! Eric Heiden



Rance Jennings is all smiles as he receives his first place Youth Angler Award.



Charlie Byars is proud of his winning wahoo.



The Sportin' Life crew celebrates their come from behind Georgetown victory!

2nd ROUND RESULTS 2011 SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES — 44th ANNUAL GEORGETOWN BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

The second tournament in the 23rd season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place at the 44th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Billfish Tournament over the Memorial Day weekend at the Georgetown Landing Marina. Amy Dukes, Series Tournament Coordinator for S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), noted that a total of 33 boats participated in the tournament with 45 billfish releases including 6 blue marlin, 30 white marlin and 5 sailfish. No billfish were landed. "There is an incredible billfish bite right now off the South Carolina Coast! There were more billfish released during this weekend's Georgetown Tournament then

have been released in the previous 23 Series tournaments hosted in Georgetown."

A special recognition award, the Wallace Pate Trophy, was presented by the Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament to Jim Johnston for all his years of billfish conservation. Wallace Jenkins, Series Program Director for SCDNR, added that "Johnston has participated in all of the 44 Georgetown Tournaments, and was a major contributor in establishing billfish release practices during fishing tournaments that are still in use today".

The Outstanding Billfish Boat was awarded to Sportin' Life, owned by Manly and Graham Eubank of Charleston, and

captained by Mike Glaesner. The boat crew caught and released a white marlin on Thursday, and surged to a victory by releasing two blue marlin and another white marlin on Saturday to accrue 1,800 total release points.

Second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to Daymaker, owned by Mark Daniels. Jay Weaver captained the boat, which caught and released four white marlin and one sailfish to accumulate 1,400 release points.

Miss Wy IV won third place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. The boat is owned by Ed Holder and captained by Matt Wilkinson, and the boat crew caught and released one blue marlin and two white marlin to earn 1,200 release points.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to Billy Monckton for his 38.4-pound landed dolphin caught aboard Mirage, owned by Bill Monckton and captained by Homer.

Angler Charlie Byars fishing on the Reel Patience won the Outstanding Wahoo award, with a 12.6-pound fish. The boat is owned by James Zachrich and captained by Stefan Patrick.

Wil Thornhill won the Outstanding Tuna award aboard Bench Mark, owned by Stephen Davis and captained by Bobby Garmany, for his 10.0-pound Bonita.

First place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Holly McAlhany for releasing two white marlin aboard Syked Out. Second place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Amy Bennett on Rodeo who also caught and released two white marlin. Keenan Grayson won third place Outstanding Lady Angler aboard On The Hook for her 27.0-pound dolphin catch.

Six year old Rance Jennings won first place for Outstanding Youth Angler for an 11.2-pound dolphin catch aboard Sadie Beth. Second place for Outstanding Youth Angler went to John Taylor aboard Caramba for catching a 6.6-pound dolphin.



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



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