



# TAG & RELEASE

<http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov>



## DNR

Volume 16, No. 5 November 2011

**Atlantic**  
Game & Tackle



## 24th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2012 Tournament Schedule...

### **May 23 - 26 45th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament**

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

### **June 6 - 9 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](mailto:Dockmaster@Bohicket.com)

### **June 27 - 30**

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

### **Carolina Billfish Classic**

### **July 11 - 14**

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

### **MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament**

### **July 25 - 28**

Contact: Becca Smith Jones  
3702 Docksite Road  
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438  
(407) 463-2082, FAX (843) 869-3738  
[smithbecca@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dukesa@dnr.sc.gov) <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>

## Series Reflections

I want to start by thanking Governor Nikki Haley and her family for hosting the 23rd Annual Awards Reception at the Mansion in September. As always, the hospitality and menu prepared by the Mansion staff was excellent, and all the winners enjoyed their photo op with the very gracious Governor and her husband Michael. Although there were a few glitches in the program brought on by a massive thunderstorm and brief power outages, by the time the reception was over, the rain had stopped and there were multiple rainbows in the sky to cap off a wonderful day. For those of you who were not present, there were three surprise awards. The first was presented to Jim Johnston for his long history of billfish conservation, the second to Jesse Alderson for all her efforts to support the Series, and the third to Amy Dukes for her outstanding efforts promoting the Series and keeping me straight these last 4 years. As you might expect, a few tears were shed during that presentation. Since our last newsletter, we have set the schedule for the 2012 Series; it is posted to the left of this column. There is one major change, as Bohicket has opted to go with a date in early June hoping to increase participation by taking advantage of kids being out of school for the summer.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our outgoing Advisory Board members who have served the Series so well; they are Jim Johnston, Frank Gibson and John Cagle. We will miss each of you, and are grateful for your years of service. Of course, when one group leaves another takes their place, and we are fortunate to have new members Mark Daniels, Mark Rogers and Jamie Zachrich join the Advisory Board.

As we all know, we have observed some disturbing trends in yellowfin tuna abundance over the last 5 years, particularly here in SC. Amy and Jesse summarized all the data that SCDNR has collected since 1977 on yellowfin tuna and other pelagic species, and this was presented to the National Marine Fisheries Service for use in the stock assessment of yellowfin tuna. This is one of the longest fishery dependent datasets available, and this is the first time these data have been considered in the analyses. I am pleased to report that the results are in, and in contrast to the last assessment done in 2006 indicating that the

yellowfin tuna stocks were stable, there is now evidence that shows overfishing of yellowfin tuna is occurring in the Atlantic, and that the population is overfished. Hopefully the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) will respond at their upcoming meeting in Istanbul, Turkey and adopt measures to reverse these trends. In particular, they will focus on ending recruitment overfishing, which has been going on in the Gulf of Guinea for the last decade. We can only hope for progress, but I will say that we have been able to make great strides with our US ICCAT representatives over the last several years, and they are determined to see something done.

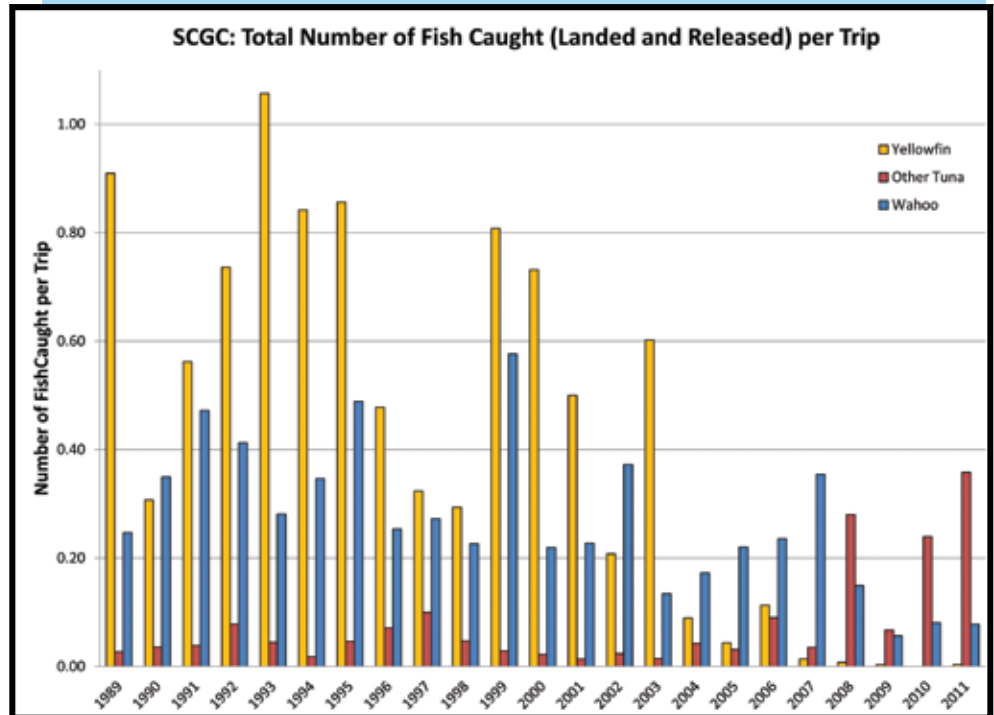
The data for all the major species we target in the Governor's Cup Series for the period of 1989 - 2011 are summarized in the figures to the right. For the most part, the catch rates of the major species during this period remained relatively stable, with some variation around the mean over time. Sailfish abundance has definitely increased; however as previously discussed, the downward trend in yellowfin tuna abundance is undeniable. In addition, in recent years we have recorded a decline in the catch of wahoo. I am not sure what is going on here, but perhaps the advent of circle hooks or the displacement in the time of year when these fish occur off our coast may be contributing to this pattern. Recreational catches of wahoo in recent years seem to be most abundant during the fall and spring, which falls outside of the Governor's Cup summer events.

We will continue to monitor these fisheries trends as we collect data through our dockside interviews during Series Tournaments. Thank you for allowing us to collect these important data; accurate and complete information is valuable as we are then providing it to NMFS for use in future fishing regulations.

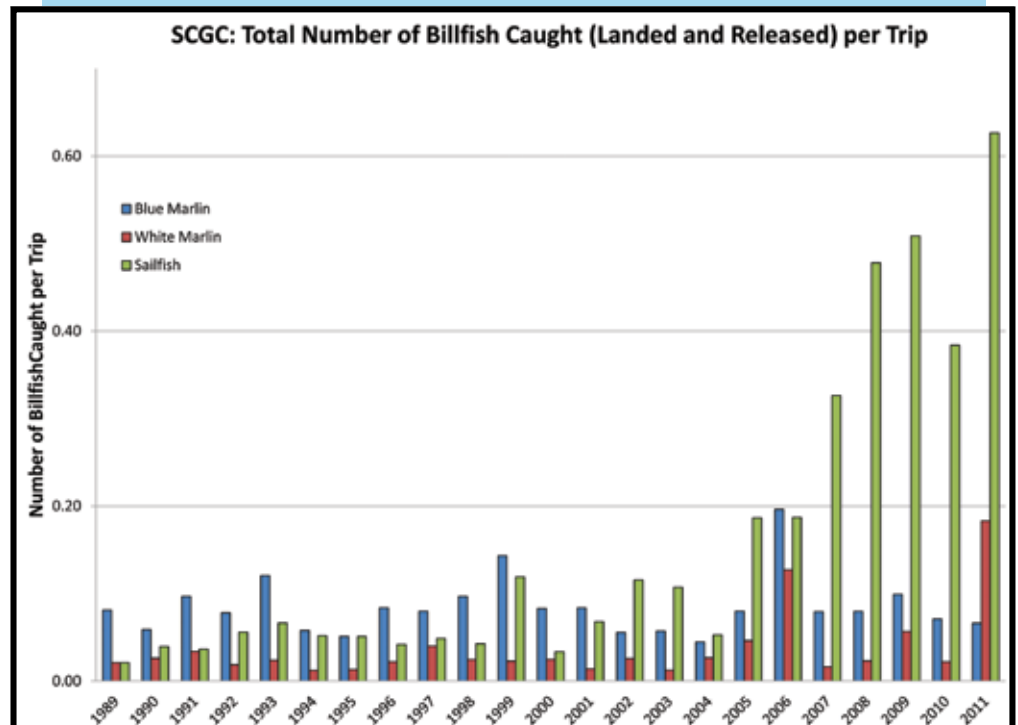
If we don't see you in the interim, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Wallace Jenkins

These figures represent yearly average catch per unit effort of species both landed and released during Series events. These data were obtained through dockside interviews with SCDNR staff.



Yellowfin tuna catch rates showed a cyclical pattern, with peak rates occurring every 5-7 years, until the mid-2000s when their numbers dropped off. Catch rates of other tuna species remained relative low until the mid-2000s, when their catch rates increased as yellowfin tuna numbers decreased. Wahoo catch rates also showed a cyclical pattern, generally mimicking the peaks and drops in catch rates that yellowfin tuna exhibited; however, catches dropped off substantially over the last 4 years. Dolphin catch rates (not shown) have remained strong over the history of the Governor's Cup, with yearly averages ranging from 1.6 to 5.4 fish caught per trip. Dolphin catch rates also showed a cyclical pattern, with years of peak dolphin catches corresponding with drops in yellowfin tuna catches. The cyclical pattern in dolphin catches has continued in recent years, despite the dramatic drop in yellowfin tuna.



Blue Marlin and White Marlin catch rates have remained relatively stable over the history of the Governor's Cup, with only some small variation around the mean over time. Sailfish catch rates also remained relatively stable until the mid-2000s, when their numbers increased dramatically.

**YETI COOLERS**  
Wildly stronger!  
Keep ice longer!

**Haddrell's Point**  
Tackle & Supply  
Serving the Lowcountry since 1983  
"Where the Fun Begins"

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! [haddrellspoint.com](http://haddrellspoint.com)

**WEST ASHLEY**  
47 S. Windermere Blvd.  
(843) 573-3474

**MT. PLEASANT**  
885 Ben Sawyer Blvd.  
(843) 881-3644



Outstanding Billfish Boat	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: William Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 2 Blue Marlin, 8 White Marlin, 12 Sailfish 6,075 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: William Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 2 Blue Marlin, 8 White Marlin, 12 Sailfish 6,075 points



Blue Water Conservation	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Robert Faith Captain: Dale Lackey Tag and Release of 41 Dolphin 2,050 points
----------------------------	--

Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	<i>Miss Beth III</i> Owner: John van Haastrecht Captain: John van Haastrecht Angler: Chance van Haastrecht, Age 14 16.4 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	<i>Sadie Beth</i> Owner: Gage Blue Captain: Howard Moseley Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 6 11.2 pound Dolphin
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	<i>Lil Bit</i> Owner: Peter Loy Captain: Peter Loy Angler: Harry Bissell, Age 14 9.6 pound Blackfin



Outstanding Lady Angler 1st Place	<i>Rodeo</i> Owner: Michael Bennett Captain: John McNamara Angler: Amy Bennett 4 White Marlin Released
Outstanding Lady Angler 2nd Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 2 White Marlin Released
Outstanding Lady Angler 3rd Place	<i>On the Hook</i> Owner: James Bass Captain: Sammy Grayson Angler: Keenan Grayson 27.0 pound Dolphin







Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Full Pull</i> Owner: John Floyd Captain: Charles Moore Angler: Lenny Cannon 52.2 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Rodeo</i> Owner: Michael Bennett Captain: John McNamara Angler: Amy Bennett 21.4 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Big Sky</i> Owner: James Johnston Captain: James Johnston Angler: Stokely Holder 73.8 pounds

SCGC Special Recognition Award	James Johnston Big Sky
--------------------------------	---------------------------



SCGC Special Recognition Award	Jesse Alderson SCDNR
--------------------------------	-------------------------



SCGC Special Recognition Award	Amy Dukes SCDNR
--------------------------------	--------------------



Sponsorship Provided by











[WWW.TheApexAutomotiveGroup.com](http://WWW.TheApexAutomotiveGroup.com)  
 Myrtle Beach - Anderson

**Atlantic Game & Tackle**

FROM WHITETAIL & WATERFOWL TO THE OFFSHORE DEPTHS...  
COME SEE THE SPORTSMAN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT SUPERSTORE!!












BLACK BART LURES       

We Know Outdoors Because We Go Outdoors!!!

[www.atlanticgameandtackle.com](http://www.atlanticgameandtackle.com)

675 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. • Mount Pleasant, SC 843-881-6900



## 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

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, website Sponsor list, and other publications as appropriate.



Outfit Your **Offshore** Lifestyle

**The Charleston Angler**

Charleston | Mt. Pleasant | Summerville  
843.571.3899 | 843.884.2095 | 843.871.9362  
www.thecharlestonangler.com

Starting Our Next 40 Years!

**PALMETTO**

Ford LINCOLN

1625 SAVANNAH HWY. 571-FORD  
[WWW.PALMETTOFORD.COM](http://WWW.PALMETTOFORD.COM)

THE ALL NEW

**PALMETTO**

Ford TRUCK WORLD

1634 SAVANNAH HWY • 266-6700  
[PALMETTOTRUCKWORLD.COM](http://PALMETTOTRUCKWORLD.COM)

# Major Sponsors



With Rock N' Reel Fishing Team



Governor's Cup  
Billfishing Series  
PO Box 12559  
Charleston SC 29422



[www.frankscarwash.com](http://www.frankscarwash.com)



Join the Coastal Conservation Association

1-800-201-FISH

[www.joincca.org](http://www.joincca.org)



[www.greystar.com/](http://www.greystar.com/)



**Prop Scan®** Technology for Performance Propellers

FREE Measurement & Analysis  
Computer Accurate Tuning & Repair  
Distributor for VEEM and AUSTRAL Propellers

Serving the CAROLINAS & GEORGIA from

4893-C Savannah Hwy

Charleston SC 29470

843-889-9212 or 888-699-1250

email: [palmettoprop@msn.com](mailto:palmettoprop@msn.com)

We're NOT your traditional prop shop!



[www.spenceryachtsinc.com](http://www.spenceryachtsinc.com)



Owned by  
Susan and Allen Bell



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 - \$485.00

Total copies - 1,570

Total cost per copy - \$0.31



Printed on recycled paper.

11-7801