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DNR

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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

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

June 27 - 30

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

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

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

TROPICAL STORM, no words other than hurricane strike more fear into the hearts of tournament organizers. A year of planning can be dashed in an instant: contracts, vendors, caterers, deposits, merchandise, and a myriad of other details all hang in the balance. This season so far, each of our tournaments has been affected. Georgetown and Bohicket lucked out and had two back-to-back days of fishing. Unfortunately, the CBC was not so lucky, and lost a number of potential boats due to concerns about the weather. In the end, they had three great days of fishing with Thursday perhaps being the calmest; but the damage was done. It is my understanding that this is the first time since 1851 (the first season in the Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Record) that there have been four named storms before the end of June. Lucky us!!! Let's hope this is not a sign of what to expect for the rest of the summer and fall.

On another note, while watching the drama unfold during the Big Rock tournament, several things came to mind. 1. Those SC boats can sure catch some fish, even in unfamiliar territory. 2. How long does a marlin need to hang before it becomes completely spoiled? Some old timers tell me they are remarkably durable and remain eatable after long hours in the sun. Either way, I am glad that our anglers and tournaments have taken the approach to ice the fish down for folks to look at rather than let them hang for hours on end. 3. While Big Rock is undoubtedly the premier tournament in our region, billfishing in SC has been much better this year. During the optimum weather days of Monday and Tuesday at Big Rock, 116 boats managed to release 52 billfish (31 of which were blue marlin) for an average of 0.45 billfish/boat. At both Georgetown and Bohicket, the average was more than double with 1.2 billfish caught/boat. Then CBC upped the ante with 26 boats averaging 2.65 billfish/boat, or 1.3 billfish/boat/day. So you may ask, with

billfishing so hot off our coast, why can't SC have a tournament like Big Rock? We certainly have the fish and the facilities. I guess that will give us something to think about for the future.

As mentioned above, the first two SCGC Series events had increased participation over last year; but unfortunately participation was down at CBC due to weather concerns. A bright sign of things to hopefully come is the large increase in the numbers of youth anglers we have seen to date. Obviously

the much-discussed rule change that allows passing the rod has been responsible for that. Whether you agree with the rule change or not, it is sure good to see the kids back at the weigh station. In fact, seven-year-old Rance Jennings released a sailfish in Georgetown and another sailfish at the CBC.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we note the passing of Damien Zanetti on June 14. Damien had been a valuable member of the Governors Cup Series Tournament committee since the Series started 24 years

ago, and although he no longer actively hosted tournaments, he could always be counted on to have an opinion on how the Series could be improved. In addition, he hosted a number of tournaments during his time as the manager at the Bohicket Marina, so he had great knowledge of the history of billfish tournaments in SC. He will be greatly missed. Damien is survived by his wife, Julie; two children, Emma Lee Zanetti and Anna Lee Zanetti of Johns Island; and his brother, John Waters of England.

— Wally Jenkins

The 2012 SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Kicks Off at Georgetown Landing Marina

The first tournament in the 24th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place at the 45th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Billfish Tournament over the Memorial Day weekend at the Georgetown Landing Marina. Amy Dukes, Series Tournament Coordinator, noted that a total of 35 boats participated in the tournament with 41 billfish releases including 15 blue marlin, 16 white marlin and 10 sailfish. One Blue Marlin was landed by the boat *Wildlife*; the fish was 104 inches which is

legal by federal requirements (a blue marlin must be 99 inches to land), but was one inch too short to qualify for points for the Governor's Cup Series. Fishing was canceled on Saturday due to the posting of a Small Craft Advisory in nearshore waters by the National Weather Service.

The Outstanding Billfish Boat was awarded to *Sadie Beth*, owned by Gage Blue of Charleston, and captained by Howard Moseley. The boat crew gained the lead on Thursday for the catch and release of five sailfish, including a quadruple hookup, and

held their lead with the release of two white marlin on Friday to accrue a total of 1,600 release points.

Second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Bench Mark*, owned by Stephen Davis. Bobby Garmany captained the boat, which caught and released two blue marlin and one white marlin to accumulate 1,500 release points.

Daymaker won third place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. The boat is owned by Mark Daniels and captained by Jay Weaver. The boat crew caught and released one blue

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marlin and two white marlin to earn 1,200 release points.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to Bob Faith for his 44.8-pound dolphin caught aboard *Caramba*. Mr. Faith owns the boat, and it is captained by Dale Lackey.

Angler Rhett Spencer fishing aboard his vessel, *Big Kahuna*, won the Outstanding Wahoo award with a 61.0-pound fish. The boat is captained by Ted Porter.

Kenneth Tucker won the Outstanding

Tuna award aboard *Christy II*, owned and captained by Stephen Godfrey and Trey Pierce, for his 17.6-pound Blackfin.

First place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Holly McAlhany for releasing a blue marlin aboard *Syked Out*. Seven-year-old Rance Jennings of Beaufort won first place for Outstanding Youth Angler for earning 200 points for the release of a sailfish aboard *Micabe*.

Program Director Wallace Jenkins said "The fishing was outstanding with many

billfish caught and released. However the tournament numbers don't reflect the 13 additional blue marlin that were hooked but lost, and numerous others that were seen by many of the anglers. When you add those in, it is apparent that there were a bunch of billfish out there, which will hopefully mean continued great fishing for the remaining Series events."

2nd Round Results for The 2012 Governor's Cup Billfishing Series — Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

The second tournament in the 24th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place June 6-9 at the Bohicket Marina and Market on Seabrook Island. A total of 27 boats participated and 32 billfish were released; 10 blue marlin, 14 white marlin, and 8 sailfish. No billfish were landed.

Wally Jenkins, Series Program Director, said "Bohicket decided to move to a date after school was out, and based on the number of boats, I believe it paid off for them. In addition, we had more youth anglers participate than we have seen in years."

The tournament's Outstanding

Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist awards went to *Summer Girl*, owned by Steve Leasure, Robbie Hooker and John Smith, Jr of Charleston, SC and captained by Steve Leasure. The winning boat earned 1,800 release points for the catch and release of three blue marlin. "We have had an amazing blue marlin bite, both here at Bohicket and two weeks ago at Georgetown. This is the first time since 2008 that a boat has released three blue marlin during a single tournament" said Series Tournament Coordinator Amy Dukes.

Miss Magnolia, owned and captained by Tram Colket, was awarded second place Outstanding Billfish Boat, earning 1,500 points for the catch and release of two blue marlin and one white marlin.

Third place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Cotton Picker*, owned by Wynn Cowan and captained by Gene Sauers. The crew caught and released one blue marlin and two white marlin to garner 1,200 points.

Summer Girl was also the Blue Water Conservation winner with the tag and release of 14 dolphin over the course of the tournament.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to 13-year-old Gray Eubank for his 53.4 pound dolphin caught aboard *Sportin' Life*. The boat is owned by Gray's father, Graham Eubank, and is captained by Mike Glaesner.

The Outstanding Tuna award was earned by *Trash Man*, owned by Burke Wall and captained by Bert Klein. Angler Brian DeMille caught the 14.2 pound blackfin.

Back Down took the Outstanding Wahoo award. The 25.2 pound fish was caught by angler Will Frederick.

Kimberly Smith earned top honors as Outstanding Lady Angler for the release of one blue marlin aboard *Summer Girl*. Outstanding Youth Angler went to Gray Eubank for the 53.4 pound fish that also won *Sportin' Life* the Outstanding Dolphin award.

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2012 Winners — Georgetown • Bohicket • Carolina Billfish Classic — Awards Summary

AWARD	GEORGETOWN	BOHICKET	CBC
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	<i>Sadie Beth</i> Owner: Gage Blue Captain: Howard Moseley 2 White Marlin and 5 Sailfish released 1600 pts	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owners: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure 3 Blue Marlin released 1800 pts	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 1 Blue Marlin and 5 Sailfish released 1600 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	<i>Bench Mark</i> Owner: Stephen Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany 2 Blue Marlin and 1 White Marlin released 1500 pts	<i>Miss Magnolia</i> Owner: Tram Colket Captain: Tram Colket 2 Blue Marlin and 1 White Marlin released 1500 pts	<i>Full Pull</i> Owner: John Floyd Captain: Ryan Riggs 1 Blue Marlin and 4 Sailfish released 1400 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	<i>Daymaker</i> Owner: Mark Daniels Captain: Jay Weaver 1 Blue Marlin and 2 White Marlin released 1200 pts	<i>Cotton Picker</i> Owner: Wynn Cowan Captain: Gene Sauters 1 Blue Marlin and 2 White Marlin released 1200 pts	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody 7 Sailfish released 1400 pts
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Sadie Beth</i> Owner: Gage Blue Captain: Howard Moseley 2 White Marlin and 5 Sailfish released 1600 pts	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure 3 Blue Marlin released 1800 pts	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 1 Blue Marlin and 5 Sailfish released 1600 pts
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	None Landed	None Landed	None Landed
Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey Angler: Bob Faith 44.8 pounds	<i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner Angler: Gray Eubank 53.4 pounds	<i>Compromise</i> Owner: Robert H. Hood Captain: Larry Branham Angler: Steven Craig 56.4 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Christy II</i> Owner: Stephen Godfrey and Trey Pierce Captain: Stephen Godfrey and Trey Pierce Angler: Kenneth Tucker 17.6 pound Blackfin	<i>Trash Man</i> Owner: Burke Wall Captain: Bert Klein Angler: Brian DeMille 14.2 pound Blackfin	<i>Dem Boys</i> Owner: Tommy Hancock Captain: Reid Bost Angler: Tommy Hancock 25.4 pound Blackfin

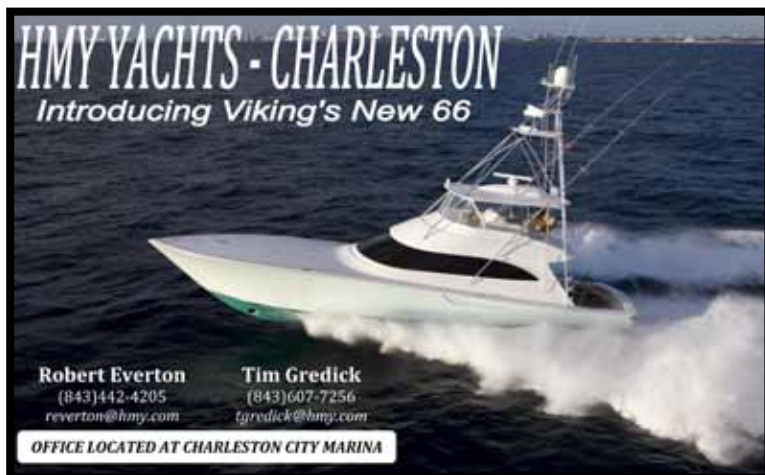
AWARD	GEORGETOWN	BOHICKET	CBC
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Big Kahuna</i> Owner: Rhett Spencer Captain: Ted Porter Angler: Rhett Spencer 61.0 pounds	<i>Back Down</i> Owner: Bryan Cook Captain: Will Frederick Angler: Will Frederick 25.2 pounds	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Barry Bleacher 50.4 pounds
Blue Water Conservation	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Tag and Release of 7 Dolphin 350 pts	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Tag and Release of 14 Dolphin 700 pts	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Tag and Release of 7 Dolphin 350 pts
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 7 1 Sailfish released	<i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner Angler: Gray Eubank, Age 13 53.4 pound Dolphin	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 7 1 Sailfish released
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	None	<i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lee Kennedy Angler: Bradley Tarbuton, Age 9 46.2 pound Dolphin	<i>El Tejano</i> Owner: John Hill Captain: David Redd Angler: Trent Bonifay, Age 11 1 Sailfish released
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	None	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Angler: Fisher Jackson, Age 12 33.8 pound Dolphin	<i>Dem Boys</i> Owner: Tommy Hancock Captain: Reid Bost Angler: Joe Bost, Age 13 19.2 pound Blackfin Tuna
Outstanding Lady Angler 1st Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 Blue Marlin released	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Angler: Kimberly Smith 1 Blue Marlin released	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 4 Sailfish released
Outstanding Lady Angler 2nd Place	<i>No Quarter</i> Owner: Mike Peet Captain: Butch Davis Angler: Olivia Whitfield 1 White Marlin released	<i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lee Kennedy Angler: Helen Tarbuton 1 White Marlin and 1 Sailfish released	<i>Cotton Picker</i> Owner: Wynn Cowan Captain: Gene Sauters Angler: Stephanie Wilson-Evans 1 Sailfish released
Outstanding Lady Angler 3rd Place	<i>Rodeo</i> Owner: Mike Bennett Captain: John McNamara Angler: Amy Bennett 1 White Marlin released	<i>Persistence</i> Owner: Jeff Burton Captain: Matt Key Angler: Grace Foerster 1 White Marlin released	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Angler: Lauren Leasure 1 Sailfish released

Top Series Boats/Point Standing after CBC

Sadie Beth	3575	Sportin' Life	2275
Caramba	2775	Summer Girl	2050
Home Run	2775	Rascal	1975
Syked Out	2650	Bench Mark	1950
Blue Sky	2575	Reel Passion	1950

Billfish Release Numbers

Tournament Name	Number of Boats	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish	Total Released
Georgetown	35	15	16	10	41
Bohicket	27	10	14	8	32
CBC	26	7	0	62	69



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Third Round Results from the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series — Carolina Billfish Classic

The third tournament in the 24th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, the Carolina Billfish Classic, took place June 27-30 at Toler's Cove Marina in Mt. Pleasant and Georgetown Landing Marina in Georgetown. A total of 26 boats participated in the tournament, and 69 billfish were released; 7 blue marlin and 62 sailfish. No billfish were landed. Wallace Jenkins, Series Program Director for SCDNR, added "The weather was hot and so was the Billfishing, with boats averaging 2.6 billfish releases for two days of fishing. It is also interesting to note that while white marlin have been fairly abundant this summer, none were captured during this tournament".

The Outstanding Billfish Boat was awarded to *Reel Passion*, owned by Bill Ingram of Charlotte, NC, and captained by Gary Richardson. The boat crew secured

their first place win with the catch and released of one blue marlin and five sailfish, accruing 1,600 total release points.

Second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Full Pull*, owned by John Floyd. Ryan Riggs captained the boat, which caught and released one blue marlin and four sailfish to accumulate 1,400 release points.

Syked Out took third place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. The boat is owned by David Sykes and captained by Dan Woody. The boat crew caught and released seven sailfish to earn 1,400 release points.

Summer Girl, owned by Steve Leasure, Robbie Hooker and John Smith, Jr and captained by Steve Leasure, was the Blue Water Conservation winner for the tag and release of 7 dolphin.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to Steven Craig for his 56.4-pound dolphin caught aboard *Compromise*, owned by Robert Hood and captained by Larry Branham.

Angler Barry Bleacher, fishing aboard *Syked Out*, won the Outstanding Wahoo award with a 50.4-pound fish.

Tommy Hancock won the Outstanding Tuna award aboard *Dem Boys* for the catch of a 25.4-pound Blackfin. Tommy owns the boat, and it is captained by Reid Bost.

First place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Holly McAlhany for releasing four sailfish aboard *Syked Out*. Seven-year-old Rance Jennings won first place for Outstanding Youth Angler for the release of a sailfish aboard *Micabe*.

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