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DNR

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Series Reflections

Well, as many of you know by now, determining the Series winner came down to the wire as we entered the Edisto tournament with three boats battling for the Series lead. After Megadock, *Caramba* had accumulated 4,175 points, while *Home Run* and *Sadie Beth* each had 3,775 points. All top three boats fished on the first day of the Edisto tournament. *Home Run* had an amazing day, releasing five sailfish to gain the lead by 400 points; *Sadie Beth* released two sailfish and *Caramba* released one sailfish after spending much of the day fighting a mystery fish in hopes that it was a big Blue Marlin. *Caramba's* owner Bob Faith and Captain Dale Lackey found themselves in a similar situation to two years ago, when they were neck and neck with *Daymaker* for the Series Outstanding Billfish Boat award. The *Caramba* crew then made what turned out to be a critical decision; just as they had in 2010, they were going to fish on Friday even though much of the fleet was going to take a lay day because of an uncertain weather forecast. Two other boats, *Sportin' Life* and *Crystal Blue*, also fished and it turned out to be a great fishing day; *Caramba* released four sailfish and moved back into the Series lead by 400 points. Saturday was another strong day of fishing with 23 sailfish released, with *Home Run* releasing two. This tied the *Home Run* in points with *Caramba* at 5,175; but put them in second place for the Series based on time. Based on my research of the archives, there has never been a tie in points in the history of the Series. Certainly each boat owner and their captains deserve a great deal of credit for competing all the way to the last day of the Series. Further, *Caramba* becomes the only boat to have won the Series three times (Congrats!) and Dale Lackey becomes the only captain to have won the Series four times, having won his first in 1996 on *Cummins Marine* and his last

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 Huttuff
P. O. Box 759
Charleston, SC, 29402
(843) 278-4920, FAX 577-7704
mhuttuff@megadock.us

MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

July 25 - 28

Contact: Becca Smith Jones
3702 Docks 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/>

three on *Caramba* (2006, 2010, and 2012). His closest competitors among captains are Charlie Aimar and Mike Glaesner, each of whom has been the winning captain twice during Series history.

While there are always winners, all who participated in the 2012 deserve congratulations. More billfish were released (300) during this summer than ever before in the Series; the next closest years being 2011 and 2007, when 225 and 224 billfish were released, respectively. When you examine the 2012 numbers closer, the 153 participating boats averaged a 1.96 billfish release rate. The next closest year was 2011, when 1.48 billfish were released per boat. This is a far cry from the early 2000's, when the billfish release rate averaged only 0.26 billfish per boat. So keep up the good work; these data really help describe the fishery and the abundance of the various species released and landed.

Where are they now...

As we gear up to enter the Series 25th year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my predecessors in the position of overseeing the Series. We owe them a lot, especially as it relates to

promoting the concept of billfish conservation. After retiring from the agency in 2006, Don Hammond (Program Director: 1989-1998) went on to found the consulting company "Cooperative Science Services", which so far has focused on studying the movements of Dolphinfin. Wayne Waltz (Program Director: 1999-2004) retired from the agency in 2005, but went on to work as a federal aid coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I am happy to report that after several years in exile in Atlanta, he was able to orchestrate a return to the local USFWS office where he remains to this day. Finally, my predecessor Tom Dupree (Program Director: 2005-2007), who was involved with the program almost since its inception, is the only one of the three who has truly retired. When he is not supporting Clemson athletics, he uses his spare time for



creating quilts. If you don't believe me, see his and Meri's photo (above) holding up the quilt they had made with T-shirts from past Series events. It's a pretty cool strategy for emptying your T-shirt drawer! Well, I have surpassed Tom's duration as Program Director and next year I will tie Wayne. I am not sure I will pass Don's tenure, but who knows. Either way, it has been fun so far and I look forward to the future!

An advertisement for Superior Diesel, Inc. featuring a white Volvo Penta boat on the water. The boat has "PENTA" and "GOVERNOR'S CUP" written on its side. In the top left corner, there is a logo for "sdi SUPERIOR DIESEL, INC." and a smaller logo for the "SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES". In the top right corner, the text "SUPERIOR DIESEL, INC." is written in large, bold, red letters, followed by "6881 Bulldog Drive", "N. Charleston SC 29406", and "800.662.7953" in bold, red letters. In the bottom right corner, the "VOLVO PENTA" logo is displayed in blue. At the bottom, the text "Proud Sponsor of the 2012 Governor's Cup" is written in bold, black letters.

Fourth Round Results from SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series – Megadock Billfishing Tournament

The fourth tournament in the 24th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, The Megadock Billfishing Tournament, took place July 11-14 at The City Marina in Charleston. A total of 38 boats participated in the tournament, and 71 billfish were released; 20 blue marlin, 2 white marlin and 49 sailfish. No billfish were landed during the tournament. Wallace Jenkins, Series Program Director for SCDNR, said "We had three great days of weather and the number of blue marlin caught is outstanding for this time of the year. In recent years, Megadock participants have seen primarily sailfish with as many as 138 released; this year was far more balanced."

The Outstanding Billfish Boat was awarded to *Micabe*, owned by Michael Larrow of Ridgeland, and captained by Jay Weaver.



The Micabe crew accepting first place

The boat crew secured their first place win with the release of two blue marlin and three sailfish, accruing 1,800 total release points.

Second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Reel Passion*, owned by Bill Ingram. Captain Gary Richardson and the

crew released two blue marlin and one sailfish to accumulate 1,400 release points.

Caramba took third place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. The boat is owned by Bob Faith and captained by Dale Lackey, and the boat crew released two blue marlin and one sailfish to earn 1,400 release points.

Caramba was also the Blue Water Conservation winner for tagging and releasing 7 dolphin over the course of the tournament.

Outstanding Dolphin was awarded to Kevin Meany for his 45.4-pound dolphin caught aboard his boat *Lucky Hooker*. Jason DuBose was the captain.

Angler Jessica Mitchell, fishing aboard *El Tejano*, won the Outstanding Wahoo award with a 57.4-pound fish. The boat is owned by John Hill and captained by David Redd.

Chris Ravenel won the Outstanding Tuna award aboard *Rookie IV*, owned by Eddie Buck, Sr. and captained by Jay Champlin, for his 14.6-pound Blackfin.

First place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Joanna Strickland for releasing two white marlin and one sailfish aboard *Wildlife*, for a total of 800 points. Ten-year-old Locke Johnson won first place for Outstanding Youth Angler by earning 600 points for the release of one blue marlin aboard *Petrel*.



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SAVE THE DATE

The 24th Annual
South Carolina
Governor's Cup Billfishing
Series Awards Reception will
be held on
Sunday, September 30th
from 5-7.

AWARD	MEGADOCK	EDISTO
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Jay Weaver 2 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish released 1800 pts	<i>Laff-A-Lot</i> Owner: Frank Thornhill Captain: Frank Thornhill 1 Blue Marlin and 6 Sailfish released 1800 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 2 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish released 1400 pts	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 8 Sailfish released 1600 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey 2 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish released 1400 pts	<i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 7 Sailfish released 1400 pts
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Jay Weaver 2 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish released 1800 pts	<i>Laff-A-Lot</i> Owner: Frank Thornhill Captain: Frank Thornhill 1 Blue Marlin and 6 Sailfish released 1800 pts
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	None Landed	None Landed
Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Lucky Hooker</i> Owner: Kevin Meany Captain: Jason Dubose Angler: Kevin Meany 45.4 pounds	<i>Short People</i> Owner: Aaron Nettles, Jr. Captain: Jeff Hagan Angler: EJ Nettles 25.8 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Rookie IV</i> Owner: Eddie Buck Sr. Captain: Jay Champlin Angler: Chris Ravenel 14.6 pound Blackfin	<i>Wildlife</i> Owner: Ken Strickland Captain: Stuart Lackey Angler: Joanna Strickland 25.8 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>El Tejano</i> Owner: John Hill Captain: David Redd Angler: Jessica Mitchell 57.4 pounds	<i>Reel Hooker</i> Owner: Lee Clark Captain: Lee Clark Angler: Tom Blanchard 41.0 pounds

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	61	68
Megadock	38	20	2	49	71
Edisto	27	6	0	82	88
Total	153	58	32	210	300

AWARD	MEGADOCK	EDISTO
Blue Water Conservation	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey Tag and Release of 7 Dolphin 350 pts	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey Tag and Release of 4 Dolphin 200 pts
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Angler: Locke Johnson, Age 10 1 Blue Marlin released	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings Eubank, Age 8 4 Sailfish released
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Angler: Cordes Johnson, Age 8 18.8 pound Dolphin	<i>5 O'Clock Somewhere</i> Owner: LK Bradham Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Gavin Wyatt, Age 16 2 Sailfish released
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	<i>El Tejano</i> Owner: John Hill Captain: David Redd Angler: Trent Bonifay, Age 11 15.2 pound Dolphin	<i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner Angler: Gray Eubank, Age 13 1 Sailfish released
Outstanding Lady Angler 1st Place	<i>Wildlife</i> Owner: Ken Strickland Captain: Stuart Lackey Angler: Joanna Strickland 2 White Marlin and 1 Sailfish released	<i>Wildlife</i> Owner: Ken Strickland Captain: Stuart Lackey Angler: Joanna Strickland 3 Sailfish released
Outstanding Lady Angler 2nd Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish released	<i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Shelby Myrick Angler: Fontaine Bergen 2 Sailfish released
Outstanding Lady Angler 3rd Place	<i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 2 White Marlin and 1 Sailfish released	<i>Reel Hooker</i> Owner: Lee Clark Captain: Lee Clark Angler: Megan Farr 25.0 pound Wahoo

Top Series Boats/Point Standing after CBC

Caramba	5175	Syked Out	4075
Home Run	5175	Rascal	3775
Sportin' Life	4675	Full Pull	3675
Sadie Beth	4575	Reel Passion	3375
Micabe	4275	Cotton Picker	3075

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Edisto Marina Rounds Out the 24th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

The final chapter of 24th SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series was completed the last weekend in July at Edisto Beach. The weather was excellent with three viable days of fishing, participation was up from the previous year, and there were a lot of public spectators at the nightly weigh-ins, making it a great family-friendly event to be a part of. The evening social events were held at the waterfront park adjacent to the marina on Big Bay Creek for the second year in a row, and several local and state government dignitaries made an appearance throughout the weekend. A total of 27 boats participated in the tournament, and 88 billfish were caught and released, including 82 Sailfish and 6 Blue Marlin. "This season, billfishing was phenomenal and the 88 fish released during the Edisto Tournament pushed the Series to reach a new record number of billfish releases! A total of 300 billfish were released over the summer's five events, including 58 Blue Marlin, 32 White Marlin and 210 Sailfish!" said Amy Dukes, Series Tournament Coordinator.

The crew of *Laff A Lot* earned top honors in the tournament for earning 1,800 release points to win the Outstanding Billfish Boat award, with the release of six Sailfish and one Blue Marlin. Frank Thronhill of Charleston owns and captains the vessel.

Second place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to *Micabe*, owned by Mike Larrow, and captained by his son-in-law Chris Jennings. They finished with 1,600 points for eight sailfish releases.



Laff A Lot takes first place

Sportin' Life, owned by Manly and Graham Eubank and captained by Mike Glaesner, finished third with seven sailfish releases, earning 1,400 points.

Angler EJ Nettles aboard *Short People*, owned by Aaron Nettles, Jr. and captained by Jeff Hagan, won the Outstanding Dolphin award for his 25.8 pound catch.

The Outstanding Tuna was awarded to angler Joanna Strickland for her catch of a 25.8 pound Blackfin Tuna aboard *Wildlife*, owned by her husband Ken Strickland, and captained by Stuart Lackey.

The Outstanding Wahoo award was won with a catch of a 25.8 pound fish by angler Tom Blanchard aboard *Reel Hooker*, owned and captained by Lee Clark.

First place for Outstanding Lady Angler went to Joanna Strickland aboard *Wildlife* for the catch and release of three Sailfish. The first place Outstanding Youth Angler was 8-year-old Rance Jennings, for releasing four of the eight Sailfish caught aboard the second-place Outstanding Billfish Boat, *Micabe*.



First place youth angler, Rance Jennings

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