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DNR

Volume 17, No. 5 December 2012

Atlantic
Game & Tackle



25th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2013 Tournament Schedule...

May 22 - 25 46th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

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

June 5 - 8 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

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

June 19 - 22

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

Carolina Billfish Classic

July 10 - 13

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

MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

July 24 - 27

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

I recently learned that Fidel Castro has been writing a column for a number of years entitled "Reflections". Since the only thing good things to come out of Cuba in the last 60 years are cigars and rum, I have to rethink what to call this section of our Newsletter. Suggestions are welcome, but please be nice.

First, for those of you who could not make it to the Governor's Mansion this year, the Awards Reception was fantastic! There is a new Mansion Chef this year, and the food was amazing. Based on a suggestion from Mansion staff, we also changed up the part of the house in which we presented the awards. I believe that this worked out well, as a larger group could be in proximity to the presentations and hear what we were saying. We owe Governor Nikki Haley and her family thanks for allowing us to have our 24th Annual event in their home. This year there were two surprise awards handed out; one went to Jim Goller for his long history of promoting the Series, and his help managing the financial aspects through his position as Executive Director of the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund. The second award was presented to Julie Zanetti in memory of her husband Damien for the many years of service he provided to the Series and to the Tournament Committee. At the time of his death, Damien was one of two members of the committee who had served since the Series began in 1989 (the other is Tournament Committee Chairman, Stan Hurteau). Damien's insight and humor will be greatly missed. Pictures of the award winners can be found in the succeeding pages of this newsletter; they are all to be congratulated.

Since our last Newsletter, the Advisory Board has approved the schedule for the 2013 Silver Anniversary Series, and it is posted to the left

of this column. There are no major changes, as most events saw an increase in participation and decided to stick with the approximate timing from the 2012 schedule.

Sadly, I must also mention that we are losing three Advisory Board members who have been with Amy and me since we started in 2007. They are Eric Burn, and former Advisory Board Chairmen Graham Eubank and Foster McKissick. All three have made significant contributions of leadership and support to the Series during the last six years, and we will miss each of them. Fortunately, I anticipate that they all will continue to play an active role in the Series as supporters and competitors. Of course as members leave, we have the great opportunity to work with others who share the Series' philosophy of promoting billfishing and conservation in South Carolina. Our three new members who have come on board to help guide the Series into the future are: Tommy Hancock (*Dem Boys*), Steve Leisure (*Summer Girl*), and Bucky Morris (*Major Motion*). They have all hit the ground running, and have already made a number of suggestions to improve the Series.

On that note, during the next few weeks we will be putting together a survey based on the Advisory Boards direction to gather opinions from participants on several topics, including passing the rod and tracking fishing days. As far as the passing of the rod is concerned, we have several members who feel strongly that we should return to IGFA rules and allow passing of the rod only to youth. Further, fish that are caught after the rod was passed to a youth would not qualify for Series points. The second issue will likely be less contentious, with a number of Advisory Board members suggesting that the tournaments should be based on fishing day not day of the tournament. Each boat would be allotted two days to fish and the time that they caught each of their fish on those days would be used to decide who accumulated the most points the soonest on their day one and two of fishing, independent of the tournament days. In other words, someone accumulating their points on their first day of fishing on a Friday could tie or pass someone who had accumulated points on their first day of fishing which had been on Thursday. This would greatly change the current strategy of fishing back-to-back on Thursday and Friday to get the opportunity to accumulate points first. The rationale is that those who can't fish on Thursday

because of work or other commitments would still enter the tournament and also know that they had the potential to compete on time without having to fish the first day. I hope I have explained these two topics adequately, as both would be major changes in the way the Series has operated in recent years. But there is precedent to have these discussions, as other current successful billfish tournaments follow similar guidelines.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. As for me, I am getting married and heading to the Bahamas for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Wallace Jenkins

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VOLVO PENTA

Congratulations the crew of the Home Run for a successful 2012 Series year!

Outstanding Billfish Boat	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Robert Faith Captain: Dale Lackey 5 Blue Marlin, 1 White Marlin, 9 Sailfish 5,175 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Robert Faith Captain: Dale Lackey 5 Blue Marlin, 1 White Marlin, 9 Sailfish 5,175 points



Blue Water Conservation	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Tag and Release of 21 Dolphin 1,050 points
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Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 8 6 Sailfish Released
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Angler: Locke Johnson, Age 10 1 Blue Marlin Released
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	<i>5 O'Clock Somewhere</i> Owner: LK Bradham Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Gavin Wyatt, Age 16 2 Sailfish Released



Outstanding Lady Angler 1st Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 2 Blue Marlin, 5 Sailfish Released
Outstanding Lady Angler 2nd Place	<i>Wildlife</i> Owner: Ken Strickland Captain: Stuart Lackey Angler: Joanna Stickland 2 White Marlin, 4 Sailfish Released
Outstanding Lady Angler 3rd Place	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Leasure, Hooker, Smith Captain: Steve Leasure Angler: Kimberly Smith 1 Blue Marlin Released



Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Compromise</i> Owner: Robert Hood Captain: Larry Branham Angler: Steven Craig 56.4 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Wildlife</i> Owner: Ken Strickland Captain: Stuart Lackey Angler: Joanna Stickland 25.8 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Big Kahuna</i> Owner: Rhett Spencer Captain: Ted Porter Angler: Rhett Spencer 61.0 pounds



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Chairman's Award	A. Foster McKissick
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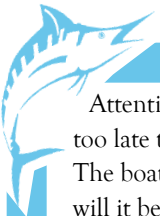
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WANTED!

Attention SC Billfish Anglers! Please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2012 fishing season. It's never too late to report a fish caught earlier this year! Anglers who release a billfish will receive a SCDNR Billfish Release Certificate. The boat reporting the most billfish releases will be named this year's "TOP CONSERVATIONIST BOAT OF THE YEAR"... will it be you? To report billfish releases or 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 2012 fishing season. Good Fishing!

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