



# TAG & RELEASE

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DNR

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*Congratulations to Rascal, winner of the 2014 Governor's Cup Series!*



*The tradition continues with the second recipient of the Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr. Award, Harry Johnson, Jr. Thank you for all you have done for the Series and for billfish conservation!*

Stay tuned for the upcoming  
2015 Schedule!

You won't want to miss out on the fun!



## Series Reflections

As we draw the curtain on the 2014 season, there are a few trends that we need to pay attention to. The most disturbing is the fact that even though the economy has been improving along with the excellent weather we experienced for virtually all the tournaments, none of the events had more than 30 registered boats. In contrast, in 2013 every tournament except Bohicket had at least 30 boats, with Georgetown leading the way with 33 boats. At the beginning of this season, we believed we would be on track to have a banner year. However, after having only 29 boats participate at Georgetown, where there is virtually no limit on dock space or amenities, it became apparent that it would be a long summer for tournament organizers. At the end of the day, we ended up with practically the same number of individual boats participating as last year (66 in 2014, 65 in 2013); the difference was the fact that far fewer boats fished in more than one tournament. If you combine boat registrations for all the Series events, 125 boats participated during 2014, compared to 144 in 2013. Looking back five years to 2010, 107 individual boats participated in the Series, with a combined total of 207 boat registrations for all tournaments. This is basically a loss of 40% in participation, and in the boat world, this would be equivalent to a blown port engine! As we speak, tournament organizers are brain storming on how to reverse this stagnant participation. Besides the usual suspects of escalating cost for registration and fuel, there seems to be a trend of people leaving the sport altogether. A great number of participants from previous

years have chosen to fish in other states/ countries, or even worse, sold their boats and are completely out of fishing! The problem, while these individuals are leaving, is that there is not a cohort behind them taking their place. There has been much discussion about the idea of attracting smaller boats (<40 feet), where much of the current consumer market is focused, to participate while ensuring that they feel like they are on equal footing with the big boats. In fact, over the last several years there has been small boat categories included in several Series tournaments, with mixed results. What I can say at this time, is that the Governor's Cup Advisory Board will take any suggestions it can get from current or past participants to try to improve participation going forward, so that we can keep this great billfish conservation tradition going for another 26 years!

On a brighter note, for those of you who weren't able to attend the Annual Awards Reception on October 17th at The Island House on John's Island, you missed a great party! We had a crowd of about 200, the weather was perfect and the Swygert and Speights families were excellent hosts. The fried shrimp, flounder and barbeque prepared by Dixieland Delights was cooked perfectly and plentifully. The bars were efficient and well stocked. The band, Plane Jane, played a diverse selection of great music. We owe Advisory Board Member Steve Leisure thanks for helping organize this party. He had



numerous ideas which were incorporated into the event to make this something all boats will want to attend in the future, whether they won anything or not. During the reception, we had the pleasure of having both DNR Director Alvin Taylor and Advisory Board Chairman Gregg Smith present to distribute the Series Awards for the 2014 season. One award that gave us great pleasure to present was the Carroll A. Campbell Award, which honors those individuals and families who have been leaders in billfish conservation in our state. This year's award went to Harry Johnson Jr., owner of the PETREL. Harry's dedication to billfish conservation

started in SC in the 1960's and he is still fishing today. Over the years, he has mentored numerous individuals who are among our leading captains and anglers. In fact, this past season his crew chose to release a large blue marlin rather than land it. The fish could have easily won them the largest landed billfish award for the tournament. He is a big proponent of tagging and releasing meat fish as well. It is this conservation-minded perspective that the Series truly respects and appreciates, and we are delighted to see him pass on these values to future fishing generations. CONGRATULATIONS HARRY!!!!

Wallace Jenkins



## *Wells Fargo Securities is proud to support the South Carolina Governor's Cup*

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# 2014 Winners — Megadock • Edisto — Awards Summary

AWARD	MEGADOCK	EDISTO
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	<i>Trick 'Em</i> Owner: Curtis Whitaker Captain: Robert Stalcup 1 Blue Marlin and 2 Sailfish Released 1000 pts	<i>Trick 'Em</i> Owner: Curtis Whitaker Captain: Robert Stalcup 3 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released 2000 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	<i>Stream Weaver</i> Owner: Russell Carter Captain: Mike King 1 Blue Marlin and 2 Sailfish Released 1000 pts	<i>Rascal</i> Norman Pulliam and Foster McKissick Mark Rogers 1 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released 1200 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	<i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob McClam Captain: Alan Neiford 4 Sailfish Released 800 pts	<i>Day Maker</i> Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek Captain: Bobby Krivohlavek 1 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released 800 pts
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	N/A	N/A
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Trick 'Em</i> Owner: Curtis Whitaker Captain: Robert Stalcup 1 Blue Marlin and 2 Sailfish Released 1000 pts	<i>Trick 'Em</i> Owner: Curtis Whitaker Captain: Robert Stalcup 3 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released 2000 pts
Blue Water Conservation	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Catch: Tag and release of 8 Dolphin 400 pts	<i>Boat: Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Catch: Tag and release of 17 Dolphin 850 pts
Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Trick 'Em</i> Owner: Curtis Whitaker Captain: Robert Stalcup Angler: Curtis Whitaker 37.2 pounds	<i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lee Kennedy Angler: Fred Bergen Jr. 31.4 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Anticipation</i> Owner: Paul Coury Captain: Harvey Shiftlet Angler: Bobby Whelan 19.2 pound Blackfin	<i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Dale Daly Captain: Geoff Rosenberry Angler: Susan Daly 18.8 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Gavin Wyatt 62.6 pounds	<i>Christy II</i> Owner: Steven Godfrey & Trey Pierce Captain: Steven Godfrey & Trey Pierce Angler: Poe Ratterree Catch: 22.2 pounds
Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 Sailfish Released 200 pts	<i>Mistress</i> Owner: James Daly Captain: Tommy Williams Angler: Louisa Daly Catch: 2 Sailfish Released 400 pts
Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Angler: Anne Darby Pearce 1 Sailfish Released 200 pts	<i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Dale Daly Captain: Geoff Rosenberry Angler: Susan Daly 18.8 Pound Blackfin Tuna
Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place	<i>OTB</i> Owner: John Loveless Captain: Chris Gaffney Angler: Elizabeth Steiner 45.4 pound Wahoo	<i>Reel Hooker</i> Owner: Lee Clarke Captain: Lee Clarke Angler: Megan Farr 11.8 Pound Dolphin
Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place	<i>C-Monkee</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chuck Griffin Angler: Chandler Griffin, Age 12 32.8 pound Dolphin	<i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Dale Daly Captain: Geoff Rosenberry Angler: Jack Daly, Age 15 18.0 pound Blackfin Tuna
Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 14 23.4 pound Dolphin	<i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Dale Daly Captain: Geoff Rosenberry Angler: Sam Daly, Age 12 11.2 pound dolphin
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	<i>Rookie IV</i> Owner: Eddie Buck Captain: Jay Champlin Angler: Robert Barrineau, Age 10 11.8 pound Dolphin	<i>Reel Hooker</i> Owner: Lee Clarke Captain: Lee Clarke Angler: Charlie Clarke, Age 8 7.8 pound Dolphin



AWARD	Overall Series Winners
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	<i>Rascal</i> Owner: Norman Pulliam & Foster McKissick Captain: Mark Rogers 4 Blue Marlin and 7 Sailfish Released 3875 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	<i>Trick 'Em</i> Owner: Curtis Whitaker Captain: Robert Stalcup 4 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released 3050 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	<i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob McClam Captain: Alan Neiford 1 Blue Marlin and 10 Sailfish Released 2675 pts
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	<i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner Angler: Jimmy Lucas 448.2 pounds 449 pts
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Rascal</i> Owner: Norman Pulliam & Foster McKissick Captain: Mark Rogers 4 Blue Marlin and 7 Sailfish Released 3875 pts
Blue Water Conservation	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Tag and Release of 47 Dolphin 2350 pts
Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Cotton Picker</i> Owner: Wynn Cowan Captain: Gene Sauers Angler: Chris Brown 51.6 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Rookie IV</i> Owner: Eddie Buck, Sr. Captain: Jay Champlin Angler: Eddie Buck, Jr. 21.0 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Gavin Wyatt 62.6 pounds
Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 2 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released 1800 pts
Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Game On</i> Owner: Bubba Roof Captain: Trey McMillan Angler: Kelli Ann Roof 1 White Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released 900 pts
Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place	<i>Mistress</i> Owner: James Daly Captain: Tommy Williams Angler: Louisa Daly 2 Sailfish Released 400 pts
Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place	<i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 14 1 Blue Marlin Released 600 pts



Outstanding Billfish goes to Sportin' Life



1<sup>st</sup> Place Youth Angler Bennett Wyatt



1<sup>st</sup> Place Lady Angler Holly McAlhany



Mister Pete Outstanding Billfish Boat 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Thomas Henry Key, Age 13 1 Blue Marlin Released 600 pts
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	<i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 7 1 White Marlin Released 300 pts





Trick 'Em takes Megadock



Petrel wins Carolina Billfish Classic



Billfish Release Numbers					
Tournament Name	Number of Boats	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish	Total Released
Georgetown	29	16*	3	1	19
Bohicket	22	2	1	7	10
CBC	28	9	1	23	33
Megadock	26	4	0	27	31
Edisto	20	5	0	14	19
TOTAL	125	36	5	72	
*1 of the 16 was landed				Total Billfish	113

Top Series Boats/Point Standings			
Rascal	3,875	Full Pull	2,125
Trick 'Em	3,050	Sportsmann	1,875
Mister Pete	2,675	Miss Wy	1,875
Petrel	2,675	Sportin' Life	1,724
Syked Out	2,475	Russell Hatt	1,275

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for Billfish and Meatfish (2010 - 2014)					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Billfish CPUE (Released and Landed)	0.57	0.9	1.09	0.65	0.5
Total Meatfish CPUE (Landed Only)	2.25	2.72	2.55	3.64	2.57



*The Perpetual Trophy*



*For those of you who couldn't make it to the Awards Reception, you missed a great night at a beautiful venue! Between the delicious food, dancing and even roasting s'mores over a fire, it was a perfect send-off to a great 2014 season. Mark your calendars for next year: there will be another wonderful celebration on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September!*







## Disturbing Trend



Integrity...it's what the Series has always been about! Whether it's the affidavit verifying the successful release of a fish; or the self disqualification of a catch because someone accidentally touched the rod after the angler had the fish on, integrity is what drives the Series. However, two recent incidents have prompted me to reflect on how we have failed to pass this virtue on to some of our participants. First, during the Megadock Tournament, someone boarded the vessel Russell Hatt early Saturday morning and cut the main lines on all the rods, reels and teasers. The crew was unaware of this sabotage until they lost all their lures, including their favorite one for catching wahoo, as they deployed their gear at 8:00am to start the fishing day. They spent the next hour of fishing time re-rigging before they could even get lines in the water. As this newsletter is published, there is still a \$2,000 reward posted for anyone who can provide information leading to the identification of those responsible for this vandalism. You might ask yourself why someone would do this to a family like the Russell's, who have fished the Series for many years. Well, it is hard to say but, maybe it's the fact that

someone didn't want competition from a boat that has a reputation for landing big wahoo. The second incident occurred at the Awards Reception. In an effort to recognize the top three boats for their accomplishments this year, we had special trophies and gifts made for the second and third place billfish boats. We reserved tables with bottles of champagne, glasses and ice buckets made exclusively for each boat's crew and their captains. The glasses and buckets had the Governor's Cup logo, name of each boat and the year engraved on them. Unfortunately, the second place boat was not able to send a representative to the event. Imagine Amy's and my surprise when at the end of the evening we discovered that someone had helped themselves to all the glasses and the bucket that had been intended for the Trick 'Em. I guess I should be thankful they didn't take the trophy when we weren't looking! Again, it comes down to Integrity, and we expect better from folks who participate in the Series. Hopefully this message will get out to those who seem to have forgotten that this is a gentlemen's sport, and they will either modify their behavior or pursue other activities where good character is not expected.




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*Supporting*  
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*Since day one*




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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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