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 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 brainstorming 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

Stay tuned for the upcoming 2015 Schedule!
You won’t want to miss out on the fun!
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Megadock</th>
<th>Edisto</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place | *Trick 'Em*  
Owner: Curtis Whitaker  
Captain: Robert Stalcup  
1 Blue Marlin and 2 Sailfish Released  
1000 pts | *Trick 'Em*  
Owner: Curtis Whitaker  
Captain: Robert Stalcup  
3 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released  
2000 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place | *Stream Weaver*  
Owner: Russell Carter  
Captain: Mike King  
1 Blue Marlin and 2 Sailfish Released  
1000 pts | *Rascal*  
Owner: Norman Pulliam and Foster McKissick  
Mark Rogers  
1 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released  
1200 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place | *Mister Pete*  
Owner: Bob McClam  
Captain: Alan Neiford  
4 Sailfish Released  
800 pts | *Day Maker*  
Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Captain: Bobby Krivohlavek  
1 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released  
800 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish (landed) | N/A  
N/A | N/A |
| Outstanding Billfish Conservationist | *Trick 'Em*  
Owner: Curtis Whitaker  
Captain: Robert Stalcup  
1 Blue Marlin and 2 Sailfish Released  
1000 pts | *Trick 'Em*  
Owner: Curtis Whitaker  
Captain: Robert Stalcup  
3 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released  
2000 pts |
| Blue Water Conservation | *Petrel*  
Owner: Harry Johnson Jr.  
Captain: Thomas Wynne  
Catch: Tag and release of 8 Dolphin  
400 pts | *Boat Petrel*  
Owner: Harry Johnson Jr.  
Captain: Thomas Wynne  
Catch: Tag and release of 17 Dolphin  
850 pts |
| Outstanding Dolphin | *Trick 'Em*  
Owner: Curtis Whitaker  
Captain: Robert Stalcup  
Angler: Curtis Whitaker  
37.2 pounds | *Legal Holiday*  
Owner: Fred Bergen  
Captain: Lee Kennedy  
Angler: Fred Bergen Jr.  
31.4 pounds |
| Outstanding Tuna | *Anticipation*  
Owner: Paul Coury  
Captains: Harvey Shiflett  
Angler: Bobby Whelan  
19.2 pound Blackfin | *Voodoo Child*  
Owner: Dale Daly  
Captain: Geoff Rosenberry  
Angler: Susan Daly  
18.8 pound Blackfin |
| Outstanding Wahoo | *Sportsmann*  
Owner: Gary Wyatt  
Captains: Matt Key  
Angler: Gavin Wyatt  
62.6 pounds | *Christy II*  
Owner: Steven Godfrey & Trey Pierce  
Captains: Steven Godfrey & Trey Pierce  
Angler: Poe Barrateree  
Catch: 22.2 pounds |
| Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place | *Syked Out*  
Owner: David Sykes  
Captains: Dan Woody  
Angler: Holly McAlhany  
1 Sailfish Released  200 pts | *Mistress*  
Owner: James Daly  
Captains: Tommy Williams  
Angler: Louisa Daly  
Catch: 2 Sailfish Released  400 pts |
| Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place | *Petrel*  
Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr.  
Captains: Thomas Wynne  
Angler: Anne Darby Pearce  
1 Sailfish Released  200 pts | *Voodoo Child*  
Owner: Dale Daly  
Captain: Geoff Rosenberry  
Angler: Susan Daly  
18.8 Pound Blackfin Tuna |
| Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place | *OTB*  
Owner: John Loveless  
Captains: Chris Gaffney  
Angler: Elizabeth Steiner  
45.4 pound Wahoo | *Reel Hooker*  
Owner: Lee Clarke  
Captain: Lee Clarke  
Angler: Megan Farr  
11.8 Pound Dolphin |
| Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place | *C-Monkee*  
Owner: Colby Griffin  
Captains: Chuck Griffin  
Angler: Chandler Griffin, Age 12  
32.8 pound Dolphin | *Voodoo Child*  
Owner: Dale Daly  
Captain: Geoff Rosenberry  
Angler: Jack Daly, Age 15  
18.0 pound Blackfin Tuna |
| Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place | *Sportsmann*  
Owner: Gary Wyatt  
Captains: Matt Key  
Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 14  
23.4 pound Dolphin | *Voodoo Child*  
Owner: Dale Daly  
Captain: Geoff Rosenberry  
Angler: Sam Daly, Age 12  
11.2 pound Dolphin |
| Outstanding Youth Angler - 3rd Place | *Rookie IV*  
Owner: Eddie Buck  
Captains: Jay Champlin  
Angler: Robert Barrineau, Age 10  
11.8 pound Dolphin | *Reel Hooker*  
Owner: Lee Clarke  
Captain: Lee Clarke  
Angler: Charlie Clarke, Age 8  
7.8 pound Dolphin |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>Overall Series Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place      | **Rascal**  
Owner: Norman Pulliam & Foster McKissick  
Captains: Mark Rogers  
4 Blue Marlin and 7 Sailfish Released  
3875 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place      | **Trick ‘Em**  
Owner: Curtis Whitaker  
Captains: Robert Stalcup  
4 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released  
3050 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place      | **Mister Pete**  
Owner: Bob McClam  
Captains: Alan Neiford  
1 Blue Marlin and 10 Sailfish Released  
2675 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish (landed) Sportin’ Life | **Owner: Manly and Graham Eubank  
Captain: Mike Glaesner  
Angler: Jimmy Lucas  
448.2 pounds  
449 pts |
| Outstanding Billfish Conservationist     | **Rascal**  
Owner: Norman Pulliam & Foster McKissick  
Captains: Mark Rogers  
4 Blue Marlin and 7 Sailfish Released  
3875 pts |
| Blue Water Conservation Petrel           | **Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr.  
Captain: Thomas Wynne  
Tag and Release of 47 Dolphin  
2350 pts |
| Outstanding Dolphin Cotton Picker        | **Owner: Wynn Cowan  
Captains: Gene Sauers  
Angler: Chris Brown  
51.6 pounds |
| Outstanding Tuna Rookie IV               | **Owner: Eddie Buck, Sr.  
Captain: Jay Champlin  
Angler: Eddie Buck, Jr.  
21.0 pound Blackfin |
| Outstanding Wahoo Sportsmann             | **Owner: Gary Wyatt  
Captains: Matt Key  
Angler: Gavin Wyatt  
62.6 pounds |
| Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place    | **Syked Out**  
Owner: David Sykes  
Captains: Dan Woody  
Angler: Holly McAlhany  
2 Blue Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released  
1800 pts |
| Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place    | **Game On**  
Owner: Bubba Roof  
Captains: Trey McMillan  
Angler: Kelli Ann Roof  
1 White Marlin and 3 Sailfish Released  
900 pts |
| Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place    | **Mistress**  
Owner: James Daly  
Captains: Tommy Williams  
Angler: Louisa Daly  
2 Sailfish Released  
400 pts |
| Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place     | **Sportsmann**  
Owner: Mike Larrow  
Captain: Chris Jennings  
Angler: Rance Jennings, Age 7  
1 White Marlin Released  
300 pts |
| Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place     | **Sportsmann**  
Owner: Gary Wyatt  
Captain: Matt Key  
Angler: Thomas Henry Key, Age 13  
1 Blue Marlin Released  
600 pts |
| Outstanding Youth Angler - 3rd Place     | **Sportsmann**  
Owner: Gary Wyatt  
Captain: Matt Key  
Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 14  
1 Blue Marlin Released  
600 pts |
Billfish Release Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>Number of Boats</th>
<th>Blue Marlin</th>
<th>White Marlin</th>
<th>Sailfish</th>
<th>Total Released</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohicket</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megadock</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edisto</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

*1 of the 16 was landed

Total Billfish: 113

Top Series Boats/Point Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rascal</td>
<td>3,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trick ‘Em</td>
<td>3,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mister Pete</td>
<td>2,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrel</td>
<td>2,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syked Out</td>
<td>2,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Pull</td>
<td>2,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportsmann</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Wy</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportin’ Life</td>
<td>1,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Hatt</td>
<td>1,275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for Billfish and Meatfish (2010 - 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Billfish CPUE</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Released and Landed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Meatfish CPUE</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Landed Only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 25th 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.

“We would like to thank each and every one of you that help support the SC Governor’s Cup and billfish conservation in South Carolina and beyond. We would not be here today if it weren’t for your continued fellowship. The camaraderie we share in this Series is truly something special, and we would like to extend our appreciation for everyone involved with participating, supporting and following our tournaments.”
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.