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DNR

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27th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2015 Tournament Schedule...

May 20 - 23 48th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

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

June 3 - 6 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 18 - 20

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

Carolina Billfish Classic

July 8 - 11

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

MEGADOCK Billfishing 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/>
PO Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422

Series Reflections

When I took this job eight years ago, I was not coming in completely blind, as over the years I had attended a few events with my wife Nan, particularly during her last year when she was unable to actually touch the fish due to her cancer treatment. That summer of 2007, Chip Dukes and I accompanied her for every interview and measured all the landed fish. During that time, I only had an ancillary view of what the Series was all about. I am sure many of you did not know what to think of me then, and even to this day some of you are still unsure. However, since becoming an active part of the Series in the summer of 2008, I have come to learn that the Series is about conservation, sportsmanship and family. I never tire of hearing about the old days when boats would be guided home using transistor radios tuned into 1250 WTMA as direction finders, or that many of the boats were much smaller versions of the vessels used today. For lack of a better description, some of the "old-timers" continue to fish in the Series today, and I look forward to every encounter I have with them. Two recent examples come to mind. At Georgetown the crew of Petrel was delayed getting to the tournament due to mechanical trouble and were forced to choose between fishing for one day of the tournament or going out in far less than ideal weather conditions to fish with one other boat on Friday. Eighty-six year old Harry Johnson Jr. chose to go fishing, and thus endured a very rough day of offshore fishing during which the bow of the boat was buried in the waves several times. In spite of the conditions, the crew managed to release a blue marlin, putting them on their way to placing second in the tournament. When they returned to the dock that evening I asked Harry how the day was and he enthusiastically said, "Great!" I don't know about you, but I doubt many people of any age would have agreed with him. There is nothing so fulfilling as seeing someone who is doing what they love! The second example was on the last day of Bohicket, when the word came over the satellite phone that Sportin' Life had hooked a blue marlin just before lines out. There was no indication at the time as to who the angler was. When I arrived at the boat to



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do the interview and review the release pictures, I was greeted by Manley Eubank who, when asked who the angler was, proudly responded that it was him. My response was, "You're joking right?" Upon my receipt of the camera he said, "See for yourself." What I saw was a 78 year old guy expertly fighting a large (>400 lb) blue marlin to the boat. I also heard someone on the video say, "Manley you can take tomorrow off." That my friends is what it's all about!

On a slightly more serious note, a number of blue marlin (N=6, that we know about) have been landed this summer outside of Series events. In some cases, the vessels did not even hold the required Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit needed to target/take tunas and billfish. Now I am no expert, but I don't think you accidentally catch a marlin. In addition, one of the conditions of these permits is that you must report your catch to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) HMS office within 24 hours of landing it. In a tournament setting, the landed fish are reported by the tournament, or in the case of the Series, SCDNR. It is ultimately the responsibility of the HMS permit holder (typically the vessel owner) to report these catches! Several vessels did not report their catches in a timely manner, or in one case, at all. Failure to comply with either of these conditions is a federal offense. In addition, this non-compliance reflects poorly on everyone, as does removing billfish from the water that you don't intend to land for the purpose of photos, etc. Based on social media posts, this seems to be an almost daily occurrence with some individuals being so bold as to include, either on purpose or by sheer ignorance, information that could be used to identify their boat. These regulations are in place for the purpose of preventing overharvest and to increase post-release survival of caught billfish. With a limit of only 250 recreationally landed blue marlin for the entire Atlantic and Gulf coasts combined, timely reporting insures that we don't exceed the quota. Higher post-release mortality estimates could mean reduced quotas, and in some cases, complete closure of directed fishing for some of these billfish species. Both state and federal law enforcement take these violations very seriously. Thus far, Amy Dukes has been able to intercede and mediate these events of non-compliance using the premise of outreach and education. However, if non-attentiveness

to HMS permit rules continues to be an issue among the SC charter and recreational offshore fleet, there will be repercussions; and I am pretty sure you are not going to like them.

Finally, as an alternative to that photo op, let me remind you that we give release certificates to all anglers that release a billfish. All you need to do is contact us and let us know the name and address of the angler, the species, date of the release and name of the vessel, and we will be more than happy to send a release certificate, suitable for framing, as a remembrance of the catch. This also serves the purpose of helping us document the numbers

by species of billfish released each year off SC, as well as the timing. We then archive that data and use it to document trends in abundance. For example, during my first year in 2008, 640 billfish were reported to us. In comparison, last year the number was much lower at 267. To some extent, I believe this significant drop in reported billfish is a reflection of folks no longer making the effort to let us know about releases. This is your friendly reminder that it is important and useful information that is used to help manage these species.

Well that is enough preaching for now; we hope to see you on the docks at an upcoming event.

Wallace Jenkins



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Awards Summary: Georgetown - Bohicket - Carolina Billfish Classic

AWARD	GEORGETOWN	BOHICKET	CBC
Outstanding Billfish Boat - 1st Place	<i>Miss Wy</i> Owner: Ed Holder Captain: Matt Wilkinson 3 Blue Marlin Released 1800 pts	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 2 Blue and 1 White Marlin Released 1500 pts	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 3 Blue Marlin Released 1800 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat - 2nd Place	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne 2 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released Points: 1400	<i>My Three Sons</i> Owner: Hunter Edwards Captain: Michael Mattson 2 Blue Marlin Released Points: 1200	<i>Three J's</i> Owner: John Spencer Captain: John Spencer 2 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released Points: 1400
Outstanding Billfish Boat - 3rd Place	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey 2 Blue Marlin Released Points: 1200	<i>Mutts & Jeff</i> Owner: Tom Stanek Captain: Tom Stanek 2 Blue Marlin Released Points: 1200	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey 3 Sailfish and 1 Blue Marlin Released Points: 1200
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Miss Wy</i> Owner: Ed Holder Captain: Matt Wilkinson 3 Blue Marlin Released	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 2 Blue Marlin and 1 White Marlin Released Points: 1500	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 3 Blue Marlin Released Points: 1800
Blue Water Conservation	N/A	<i>My Three Sons</i> Owner: Hunter Edwards Captain: Michael Mattson Tag and release of 1 dolphin Points: 50	<i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Jr. Captain: Thomas Wynne Tag and Release of 4 Dolphin Points: 200
Outstanding Dolphin	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure Captain: Stevie Leasure Angler: Kaleigh Leasure 50.4 Pounds	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure Captain: Stevie Leasure Angler: Danny O'Quinn 36.0 Pounds	<i>Sea Tiger</i> Owner: Jerry Smith Captain: Jerry Smith Angler: Jason Watkins 46.2 Pounds
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Christy II</i> Owner: Stephen Godfrey/Trey Pierce Captain: Stephen Godfrey/Trey Pierce Angler: Brad Liles 13.2 Pound Blackfin	N/A	N/A
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Houdini</i> Owner: Jim Shannon Captain: Wren Fogle Angler: Rich Bermudez 55.2 Pounds	<i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Shelby Myrick Angler: Fred Bergen, Jr. 55.6 Pounds	<i>My Three Sons</i> Owner: Hunter Edwards Captain: Michael Mattson Angler: Russ Parker 38.2 Pounds

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Awards Summary: Georgetown - Bohicket - Carolina Billfish Classic

AWARD	GEORGETOWN	BOHICKET	CBC
Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place	<i>Game On</i> Owner: Bubba Roof Captain: Trey "Cricket" McMillan Angler: Kelli Ann Roof 1 Blue Marlin Release Points: 600	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released Points: 800	<i>Compromise</i> Owner: Robert Hood Captain: Larry Branham Angler: Jean Hood 1 Blue Marlin Released Points: 600
Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Nauti Girl</i> Owner: Angela and Justin Kohl Captain: Justin Kohl Angler: Angie Matthews 27.8 Pound Dolphin	<i>Mutts & Jeff</i> Owner: Tom Stanek Captain: Tom Stanek Angler: Jenn Haugen 1 Blue Marlin Released Points: 600	<i>The Mover</i> Owner: Mark Hoover Captain: Mark Hoover Angler: Mary Hoover 14.6 Pound Dolphin
Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place	<i>Nauti Girl</i> Owner: Angela and Justin Kohl Captain: Justin Kohl Angler: Maggie Wilkinson 22.4 Pound Dolphin	<i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 1 White Marlin Released Points: 300	N/A
Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place	<i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 15 1 Blue Marlin Release Points: 600	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson Angler: Brian Ingram, Age 10 10.0 Pound Dolphin	<i>Rascal</i> Owner: Norman Pulliam and Foster McKissick Captain: Mark Rogers Angler: Graham Rogers 1 Sailfish Released Points: 200
Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure Captain: Stevie Leasure Angler: Fisher Jackson, Age 15 1 Blue Marlin Release Points: 600	N/A	<i>The Mover</i> Owner: Mark Hoover Captain: Mark Hoover Angler: Bridget Hoover 37.4 Pound Wahoo
Outstanding Youth Angler - 3rd Place	<i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure Captain: Stevie Leasure Angler: Kaleigh Leasure, Age 13 Catch: 50.4 Pound Dolphin	N/A	<i>Solid Surface</i> Owner: Aaron Nettles Captain: Andy Nettles Angler: EJ Nettles 34.0 Pound Dolphin





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WANTED

Attention SC Billfish Anglers! Please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2015 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 2015 fishing season. *Good Fishing!*



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Miss Wy	3075	Home Run	1450
Caramba	2875	Three J's	1425
My Three Sons	2475	Bad Becky	1275
Petrel	2250	Mirage	1250

Billfish Release Numbers					
Tournament Name	Number of Boats	Blue Marlin	White Marlin	Sailfish	Total Released
Georgetown	41	23	6	3	32
Bohicket	20	17	2	8	27
CBC	28	12	1	11	24
Total Billfish					83

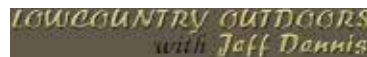
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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.

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