Well, another year of Series fishing is behind us. The four tournaments went by in a flash! Amy and I both attended the Marina at Edisto’s qualifying event to collect catch and effort data and observe the festivities; but there is a drastic difference between observing and participating, and our time there seemed more like a mini vacation than actual work. With the exception of Georgetown, each event this summer morphed a little from previous years, trying to hit that sweet spot for participation. The Megadock made the most changes, including allowing boats to fish out of multiple locations and weigh in meat fish in Georgetown, like the CBC. This was a major change that put me on the road to various marinas to verify catches. While it was much more work for us, it is just an example of the extremes that we are willing to go to help each tournament succeed. One additional change we observed this summer was a significant increase in the amount of interactions with sharks. Here on shore, sharks were in the news all summer for their accidental biting of humans. Offshore, it was the “Year of the Shark,” with outcomes of several tournaments determined, to some extent, by shark interactions. During the Megadock Tournament, Chasin’ was hooked up on four tunas, all of which were taken, or partly taken, by sharks before the crew could get them to the boat. Shark bites on blue marlin either on the line or immediately after release were also way up from previous years. At least six boats had, what I would call, serious encounters with sharks biting fish either completely in half or taking a big chunk out of marlin they were fighting. In one extreme case of bad luck, during the CBC tournament, Houdini had two blue marlin taken in the same day. The first fish was an approximately 300 lb. fish that was bitten in half, and the second fish, presumed to be a keeper, was on the line and near the boat when it was...
also taken. These were not small sharks feeding in a group. However, in most of these cases, it was not possible to get enough information from the boats to determine exactly what species of sharks were involved. It is hard to completely explain what is happening, but what we are seeing is likely the result of increased abundance of oceanic sharks due to the management and protection measures for sharks that have put in place by the National Marine Fisheries Service over the last two decades. In addition, there has been a significant drop in swordfish fishing effort by pelagic long line boats in the North Atlantic. In part, this is due to increased regulations of by-catch, particularly as it relates to bluefin tuna. One of these new regulations is that permitted swordfish boats cannot leave the dock unless they possess or have purchased sufficient bluefin quota for the trip. Swordfish landings so far this year are over 100 metric tons dressed weight below what was landed during the same period in 2014. This is a 25% drop in one year alone, and is indicative of trends in the swordfish fishery over the last decade. Sharks have also historically been a big part of the by-catch of this fishery, so as the swordfish fishery faces increased regulation, the trend we are seeing in incidents of shark interactions is likely to increase going forward. The take-home message is that these management decisions are complicated, and have far-reaching and sometimes unanticipated effects down the line. The other take home message is stay in the boat!

During the remainder of the summer we will be frantically preparing for the Annual Awards Reception which is mentioned later in this newsletter. It will be another great celebration, and we hope to see all of you there.

Wallace Jenkins
### Awards Summary: MEGADOCK and Unofficial Series Winners

Georgetown, Bohicket and CBC winners were covered in the previous newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>MEGADOCK</th>
<th>Unofficial Series Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Outstanding Billfish Boat - 1st Place** | Artemis  
Owner: John Darby  
Captains: Legare Smith  
2 Blue Marlin Released  
1200 pts | Reel Passion  
Owner: Bill Ingram  
Captains: Gary Richardson  
7 Blue Marlin and 3 White Marlin Released  
5175 pts |
| **Outstanding Billfish Boat - 2nd Place** | Sportin’ Life  
Owner: Manly & Graham Eubank  
Captains: Bobby Garmany  
5 Sailfish Released  
Points: 1000 | Miss Wy  
Owner: Ed Holder  
Captains: Matt Wilkinson  
6 Blue Marlin Released  
Points: 3675 |
| **Outstanding Billfish Boat - 3rd Place** | Can’t Complain  
Owner: Mullins McLeod  
Captains: Buddy Aimar  
5 Sailfish Released  
Points: 1000 | Caramba  
Owner: Bob Faith  
Captains: Dale Lackey  
3 Blue Marlin and 5 Sailfish Released  
Points: 2875 |
| **Outstanding Billfish (landed)** | N/A | N/A |
| **Outstanding Billfish Conservationist** | Artemis  
Owner: John Darby  
Captains: Legare Smith  
2 Blue Marlin Released  
1200 pts | Reel Passion  
Owner: Bill Ingram  
Captains: Gary Richardson  
7 Blue Marlin and 3 White Marlin Released  
5175 pts |
| **Blue Water Conservation** | N/A | Petrel  
Owner: Harry Johnson, Jr  
Captains: Thomas Wynne  
Tag and Release of 4 Dolphin  
Points: 200 |
| **Outstanding Dolphin** | Mirage  
Owner: Billy Monckton  
Captains: Homer Rachels  
Anglers: Billy Monckton  
27.9 Pounds | Summer Girl  
Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure  
Captains: Stevie Leasure  
Anglers: Kaleigh Leasure  
50.4 Pounds |
| **Outstanding Tuna** | Daymaker  
Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Captains: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Anglers: Benny Maresca  
15.4 Pound Blackfin | Daymaker  
Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Captains: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Anglers: Benny Maresca  
15.4 Pound Blackfin |
| **Outstanding Wahoo** | Daymaker  
Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Captains: Bobby Krivohlavek  
Anglers: Joseph Maresca  
37.6 Pounds | Legal Holiday  
Owner: Fred Bergen  
Captains: Shelby Myrick  
Anglers: Fred Bergen, Jr.  
55.6 Pounds |
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Georgetown, Bohicket and CBC winners were covered in the previous newsletter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>MEGADOCK</th>
<th>UNOFFICIAL SERIES WINNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place</td>
<td>Artemis</td>
<td>Syked Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: John Darby</td>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: David Sykes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Legare Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captains: Dan Woody, Holly McAlhany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angler: Litsa Darby</td>
<td>5.4 Pound Dolphin</td>
<td>1 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Points: 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Game On</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: Bubba Roof</td>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: Tom Stanek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Trey “Cricket” McMillan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captains: Tom Stanek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angler: Kelli Ann Roof</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angler: Jenn Haugen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points: 600</td>
<td></td>
<td>Points: 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Mutts &amp; Jeff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: Gary Wyatt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: Tom Stanek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Matt Key</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captains: Tom Stanek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angler: Jenn Haugen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points: 600</td>
<td></td>
<td>Points: 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Sportsmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure</td>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: Gary Wyatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Stevie Leasure</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captains: Matt Key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angler: Fisher Jackson, Age 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points: 600</td>
<td></td>
<td>Points: 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Summer Girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: Norman Pulliam/Foster McKissick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: Mike Jackson/Stevie Leasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Mark Rogers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captains: Stevie Leasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angler: Graham Rogers, Age 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angler: Fisher Jackson, Age 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sailfish Released</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Blue Marlin Released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points: 200</td>
<td></td>
<td>Points: 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See you there!

For those of you who were able to attend our Annual Awards Reception at the Island House at Ross Marine last year, you know the fun and entertainment that awaits us in September! We will be continuing the tradition this year at this quite picturesque venue right on the Stono River. There will be great food, music, dancing and fun for the whole family. We cannot wait to send off another great year with the Island House staff delivering another wonderful celebration. We hope to see you on September 25th!
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!
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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