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DNR

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Series Reflections

On the morning of September 25th, we woke to the news that a tornado had touched down on Johns Island in the area near Sonny Boy Lane. Of course, prior to this I had never heard of this street nor its location, but in a very short time I realized it was very close to the venue at Ross Marine, where we were to hold the Awards Reception in less than 10 hours. Fortunately, the facilities at the Island House were not damaged, although power was predicted to be out indefinitely. We immediately contacted the caterer and the band to tell them the event was still on and then began the process of figuring out how to successfully provide enough power to hold a quality event that evening. We also fielded calls from numerous guests as to the status of the event and possible routes to the venue since several roads on Johns Island were blocked. Ross Marine had a couple of generators, and thankfully so did SCDNR. We pooled our collective resources and met at the site shortly after 10 am. Staff at Ross Marine disconnected service from the electrical grid and began to rewire breaker panels to allow for the safe use of generators. Of course, hosting such an event without refrigeration was just one more hurdle to jump. Though faced with many obstacles, the event went off without a hitch, but I can tell you the stress of the day proved very taxing on myself, Paul Speights, Amy and Kayla. Thank you to all that came out to the Reception to celebrate with us!

It was a pleasure to present the beautiful hand carved awards that have been made by the Costello family since the Series started in 1989. We had the pleasure of having Chris Costello and his daughter Elena, depicted (on the next page) join us for the Reception this year. Chris' father Peter created and hand-crafted the Perpetual Trophy for the Series its year of inception, and Chris has continued the tradition flawlessly. The talent, quality and legacy the Costello family has provided the Series is priceless, and we would like to extend our

28th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2016 Tournament Schedule...

May 11 - 14

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

Carolina Billfish Classic

May 25 - 28 49th 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 1 - 4 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 29 - July 2 MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

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

July 20 - July 23 Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Brian Bell
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438
(843) 631-5055, FAX (843) 631-5065
Bkbell1@bellsouth.net

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

sincere gratitude for all they have done for the Governor's Cup.

Representatives from the three top boats, Reel Passion, Miss Wy and Caramba were all there to accept their awards. The overall winner Reel Passion's owner Bill Ingram, captain Gary Richardson, mate Ross Thames and crew posed for many photos with the Perpetual Trophy. They even let Michael Runey into the pictures! One of the many highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award to Manly Eubank. Manly is a former Governor's Cup Advisory Board member and long time sponsor of the Series. In addition, he has been a leader in conservation since billfishing began in South Carolina in the 1960's and he is still fishing today. You may remember Manly fighting a blue marlin for nearly an hour before releasing it during the Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament this past summer. Over the years, he has mentored numerous individuals who are among our leading captains and anglers today. As an astute business man, I don't think Manly is surprised very often, but I am pretty sure he was that night as he was being called up to accept this prestigious award. Congratulations to Manly and all of our 2015 winners!

Finally, as you saw on the front page, the schedule for next summer has been set and it is a fairly strong departure from the calendar we have become accustomed to over the last few years. With the return of a Series tournament at Edisto, we are back to five events for 2016. The Carolina Billfish Classic kicks off the Series early in May, with the thought of taking advantage of the peak blue marlin bite, followed by the Georgetown Landing Marina Blue Marlin Tournament on their traditional Memorial Day weekend date. The Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament begins a week earlier than usual, wanting to avoid a scheduling conflict with the Big Rock tournament, known as the largest billfishing event in the Southeast. The Megadock Billfishing Tournament will also move up a week to the weekend prior to the 4th of July. We will end with the Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament in late July. Change is good! One thing is for sure: if this schedule does not work out as expected, we will continue to try to optimize things for future seasons.

Wallace Jenkins



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Awards Summary: Official Series Winners

AWARD	OFFICIAL SERIES WINNERS
Outstanding Billfish Boat - 1st Place	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 7 Blue Marlin and 3 White Marlin Released 5175 pts
Outstanding Billfish Boat - 2nd Place	<i>Miss Wy</i> Owner: Ed Holder Captain: Matt Wilkinson 6 Blue Marlin Released Points: 3675
Outstanding Billfish Boat - 3rd Place	<i>Caramba</i> Owner: Bob Faith Captain: Dale Lackey 3 Blue Marlin and 5 Sailfish Released Points: 2875
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	N/A
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	<i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson 7 Blue Marlin and 3 White Marlin Released 5175 pts
Blue Water Conservation	<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
Outstanding Tuna	<i>Daymaker</i> Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek Captain: Bobby Krivohlavek Angler: Benny Maresca 15.4 Pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	<i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Shelby Myrick Angler: Fred Bergen, Jr. 55.6 Pounds



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Awards Summary: Official Series Winners



Outstanding Youth Angler- 1st Place	<i>Sportsman</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Matt Key Angler: Bennett Wyatt, Age 15 1 Blue Marlin Released Points: 600
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 Released Points: 600
Outstanding Youth Angler - 3rd Place	<i>Rascal</i> Owner: Norman Pulliam/Foster McKissick Captain: Mark Rogers Angler: Graham Rogers, Age 12 1 Sailfish Released Points: 200



AWARD	OFFICIAL SERIES WINNERS
Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place	<i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 Blue Marlin and 1 Sailfish Released Points: 800
Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place	<i>Game On</i> Owner: Bubba Roof Captain: Trey "Cricket" McMillan Angler: Kelli Ann Roof 1 Blue Marlin Released Points: 600
Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place	<i>Mutts & Jeff</i> Owner: Tom Stanek Captain: Tom Stanek Angler: Jenn Haugen 1 Blue Marlin Released Points: 600



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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
Megadock	25	12	1	17	30
Total	114	64	10	39	113



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Top Series Boats		Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for Billfish and Meatfish (2011-2015)					
Reel Passion	5175		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Miss Wy	3675						
Caramba	2875						
Sportin' Life	2775						
My Three Sons	2475						
Home Run	2275						
Petrel	2250						
Artemis	1875						
Mirage	1875						
Can't Complain	1675						
		Total Billfish CPUE (Released and Landed)	0.9	1.09	0.65	0.5	0.59
		Total Meatfish CPUE (Landed Only)	2.72	2.55	3.64	2.57	1.98

WANTED · WANTED · WANTED · WANTED · WANTED · 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! 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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This newsletter brought to you by...



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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