As we enter our 28th year, it is important to thank the businesses that made the 2015 season such a success! As most of you know, the Series is a unique public/private partnership overseen by SCDNR. All expenses related to the operation of the Series are funded through private donations. First and foremost, I want thank the businesses who stepped forward to make significant financial contributions to the Series in 2015. Superior Diesel/VolvoPenta (Jim Reed, Marcia Kull and John Garvey) and Wells Fargo (Bill Ingram) were our Corporate Sponsors last year, donating $10,000 each. The APEX Automotive Group (Greg Smith), HMY Yachts (Steve Moynihan and Tim Gredick), Martech Research/Marine Products (Benny and Amie Maresca), The Island House/Ross Marine (Swygert and Speights Families), ProSpec Electronics/Harman (David Sykes), Sea Hunt Boats (Bubba Roof) and Southern Lumber and Millwork (The Albrecht and Shuler Families) were our Benefactor Sponsors, donating $5,000 each, while Frank’s Carwash (Mike Hutchins), Johnson and Johnson (Harry and Fran Johnson), The Pate Foundation (Wallace Pate) and Sportsman Boats (Tommy Hancock) were our Patron Sponsors, donating $2,000 or more. In addition, the newsletter which you are reading now would not have been possible without the contributions from Atlantic Game and Tackle (Jeremy Burnham), Bergen and Bergen Law Firm (Fred Bergen), Blanchard Power Systems (Joey Coble), Carpet Baggers (Stevie Leasure), Citadel Enterprises (Pete Loy), Fairway Ford (Foster McKissick), On the Fly Fishing Consignments (Kirk Leaphart), Pearce Law Firm (Dixon Pearce), Rascal Fishing Team (Norman Pulliam, Foster McKissick and Mark Rogers), Spencer Yachts (Paul, Daniel and Stacey Spencer), and Dr. T. Rhett Spenser, each of whom donated at least $1,000. Second, I would like to acknowledge not only the time and
energy that each of our Advisory Board of Directors (some of whom are listed above) put into overseeing the program, but also their generous individual donations that were made toward the operation of the Series. Advisory Board members not listed above that we would like to also extend our appreciation to include: Mark Daniels, Stokely Holder, Chris Jennings and Bucky Morris. The four participating 2015 tournaments also made donations to the Wallace Pate Fund, based on the number of boat entries at their respective events.

A number of other businesses also made varying donations toward the program. All of these Sponsors are listed on our website at http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/Sponsors/#sustain. Take a look, and when you get a chance, thank each of them personally by giving your patronage at their place of business.

While the 2015 season was a great success, both from a fishing and operational standpoint, we cannot rest on our laurels and must once again begin fundraising. Each level of support comes with associated benefits. There are many levels at which to give; last year we had 36 donors and received contributions from $100 to as large as $10,000. Of course, there are varying benefits that you or your company accrue depending on the level at which you donate. First, everyone who donates a minimum of $100 gets an invitation to the Annual Awards Reception. Those donating $500 also get their logo in every Newsletter, in addition to the benefits mentioned above. Those donating $2,000 (Patron Sponsor) are also included in all Series advertising, are allowed the use of the Governor’s Cup logo in their own advertising, are given the opportunity to include their company brochures in boat registration packets for all tournaments, and they receive recognition of appreciation at the Awards Reception. At the $5,000 level (Benefactor Sponsor) companies get all of the above, plus a place to put an advertisement banner at each tournament and 2 passes to all tournament and Series events they choose to attend. Finally, at the $10,000 level (Corporate Sponsor) your company will also be eligible for a 50% discount on a single boat registration for all 5 Series Tournaments, or 6 tickets to all Series events they choose to attend but do not wish to register a boat, booth space at each tournament, and will be included in individual tournament brochures and advertising as a Corporate Sponsor of the Series. How can you afford not to take advantage of this opportunity to associate your company with the heritage and prestige of the SC Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series? All you need to do to get started is fill out the pledge card on page 5 of this Newsletter and mail it in; it couldn’t be easier!

The 2015 fishing season also saw the inclusion by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council of the Memorial Reef Barges’ final resting places, within the boundary of the Charleston Deep Reef Marine Protected Area. Now, the reefs created by this project can serve the purpose for which they were originally intended.

Finally, during the last several months, we lost several individuals who have been longtime supporters...
Getting prepared for your 2016 Fishing Season:

It’s that time again, and we thought we would provide everyone with a brief list of some of the permits, licenses and documentation that you will/may need to have in your possession so that the boat owners, captains and crew are ready for a successful fishing season. Please Double Check Your Expiration Dates!!!

1) Purchase your Atlantic HMS Angling Permit (Recreational) or Charter/Headboat Permit – All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally, or owners/operators of Charter/Headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. 2016 Atlantic HMS permits cost $20.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2016. Visit the NMFS website at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/ to apply for your permit.

2) Purchase your SC Saltwater Fishing License – All anglers (over age 16) must obtain a SCDNR Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License. SC Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License can be purchased at https://dnrlicensing.sc.gov/ or call 1-866-714-3611. Be reminded that now, SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are issued on a 365 day basis, and will expire one year from the issue date.

All Series participating vessels and recreational fishermen will at minimum need the two above mentioned permits/licenses. If you are operating a Charter/Headboat vessel, then the vessel must possess a current SCDNR Charter/Headboat license. These vessels are exempt from having anglers purchase individual saltwater fishing licenses, as long as the fishing trip is documented in accordance to SC law under the vessels Charter License. The vessel can only have six anglers, captain and crew on board. In addition, the owners/operators of these vessels must also possess the following two permits/licenses: **

3) Purchase your Dolphin Wahoo Permit – All owners/operators of Charter/Headboat vessels, are required to obtain an Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit for Dolphin/Wahoo. The permit is $25.00, and will be valid for one calendar year. Visit the NOAA Southeast Region website (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituency_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/index.html). Application #1 to apply for your permit.

2) Purchase your SC Saltwater Fishing License – All anglers (over age 16) must obtain a SCDNR Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License. SC Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License can be purchased at https://dnrlicensing.sc.gov/DNRLicensingSales/SalesCategories.aspx or call 1-866-714-3611. Be reminded that now, SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are issued on a 365 day basis, and will expire one year from the issue date.

4) Purchase your Operator Card – All owners/operators of Charter/Headboat vessels are required to obtain an operator card when fishing for Dolphin and/or Wahoo. The Operator Card fee is $50.00, and is valid for three years. Visit the NOAA Southeast Region website (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituency_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/index.html). Application #2 to apply for your operator card.

Amy, Kayla and I are excited for another fishing season and look forward to seeing each of you on the docks!

Wallace Jenkins

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Celebrating a legacy of conservation
SC Governor’s Cup is going digital in 2017!

We’re saving trees and will only be sending Tag and Release electronically in 2017! If you would like to receive an electronic version of our Newsletter, please send us your email address to GovCup@dnr.sc.gov or subscribe on our webpage http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/Newsletter/Subscribe.php!
Send this form to: SC Governors Cup Billfishing Series, SCDNR, P. O. Box 12559, Charleston SC 29422-9909 if you want to become a sponsor or donor.

**SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR’S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES SPONSOR DONOR FORM**

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- [ ] $50          - [ ] $2,000 (Patron Sponsor)
- [ ] $100 (Contributor) - [ ] $5,000 (Benefactor Sponsor)
- [ ] $500 (Donor)   - [ ] $10,000 (Corporate Sponsor)

Please visit [http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov](http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov) for more information on the benefits associated with each donor level. SCGC, in partnership with Harry Hampton, is a 501-c-3 tax-exempt organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

After receiving your pledge, an invoice will be sent to you for payment. When payment has been received, we will forward the appropriate promotional items for the donor level you have chosen and request an electronic copy of your business logo for use in the Governor’s Cup Newsletter, website Sponsor List, and other publications as appropriate.
Major Sponsors

Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund
P.O. Box 2641
Columbia, SC 29202

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.