29th Annual SC Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series
2017 Tournament Schedule

May 10-13  Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament
Contact: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Boulevard
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 786-1280, Fax (843) 768-3481
Dockmaster@Bohicket.com

May 24-27  50th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament
Contact: Ed Keelin
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, Fax (843) 546-7832
ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com

June 21-24  Carolina Billfish Classic
Contact: Deidre Menefee
20 Patriots Point Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 345-0369
dm@fishcbc.com

July 5-8  MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament
Contact: McKenzie Hutaff
P.O. Box 759
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 278-4920, Fax (843) 577-7704
mhutaff@megadock.us

July 19-22  Edisto Invitational Billfishing 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
DukesA@dnr.sc.gov · http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/ · (843) 953-9365
PO Box 12559 · Charleston, SC 29422

Series Reflections
As I traveled back from an Advisory Panel meeting with the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on May 11, my phone and email started blowing up with reports of a phenomenal day of fishing during the first day of the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament. To put it mildly, it was perhaps the best day of blue marlin fishing in South Carolina history with 28 boats releasing 16 blue marlin and three more coming to the scales. Gryphon held on to win the event releasing three blue marlin. By the end of the event, 29 boats caught 28 billfish, resulting in nearly one billfish per boat catch per unit of effort. Since then, I have been asked by many what suite of conditions were responsible for this bonanza, and for the life of me I have no explanation other than that we are seeing the fruits of the Series’ and sportfishermen’s management and conservation labor paying off in increased abundance of billfish.

From there, we headed to Georgetown to celebrate the 50th Anniversary Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament, and what a celebration it was, with over 40 vessels participating for the first time since 2009. The newly renovated Hampton Inn was filled, and Eddie Chacon’s restaurant staff kept the high quality meals and appetizers coming throughout the event. In addition, we got to work with a number of iconic individuals in the billfishing community, many of whom I had never actually met, including Bony Peace and Marshall Truluck. Peace and Truluck, along with Jim Johnston and Wallace Pate, were instrumental in the inception of the tournament. Johnston has fished in all 50 events, and stated that he plans on participating beyond the 60th. Pate, an avid fisherman and lure developer, was also memorialized with a special award. Pate “Changer” lures were given to each vessel, with a $2,000 prize given to whoever caught the first blue marlin on a Changer. Johnston, expected to have the honor of presenting this award, turned out to be the recipient, leaving his long-time friend Truluck to present the prize to him. Johnston’s Big Sky also landed the largest wahoo of the tournament, adding...
another special moment to this memorable weekend. The Pate lure prize was not the only special award given during the event: fifty $100 bills were given to Gryphon for releasing the first blue marlin of the event. Congratulations to Artemis for taking home the win with two blue marlin releases. It’s worth noting that Artemis also won the 50th anniversary of the Big Rock Tournament as well! On a sad note, the Nauti Girl had an oil fire in the engine room during the second day of fishing. Thankfully, everyone returned home safely, due to the incredible act of kindness from the owner and crew of Kobayashi Maru, who, among others, halted fishing to come to the vessel’s aid. We are thankful for the safety of all involved and for the selfless actions of those who provided assistance.

After a long interlude left only to monitor the fishing at Big Rock, we came to the Carolina Billfish Classic which returned to the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina for the first time since 2010. The venue has had significant upgrades, including a new hotel and restaurant, and the evening socials on the beach were as great as we remembered in the past. The tournament was won by Toast, a boat captained by Newt Cagle, a local boy who I have known since he was a baby. It was good to see him and his father Johnny fishing together again, especially seeing them earn 2,600 points with 2 blues and 7 sails released in one event. This has them in 2nd place for the Series. Perhaps the best thing about the event was the great billfish bite, which witnessed the return of sailfish schools, with some vessels releasing up to five in a single day. At tournament’s end, 88 billfish, including nine blue marlin, one white marlin and 78 sailfish were released by 38 boats in only two days of fishing. What’s exciting is that most of these animals were caught in CLOSE proximity to the SC Memorial Reef structures that were placed within the Charleston Deep Reef MPA in 2014. Frayed Knot caught a blue marlin there on Friday, and showed me photos from their sonar of both structures covered with bait. After reviewing interview sheets, it was discovered that 17 sailfish and 3 blue marlin were caught near the Reef! To make a long story short, these structures are doing exactly what they were intended to do, and we now have a tremendous opportunity to make them even better by adding material to the 4 x 6 mile box that comprises the permit boundaries of the Charleston Deep Reef MPA. At the CBC awards party, Johnson & Johnson Inc. pledged to match up to $20,000 in contributions received toward completing our goal of $180,000 for the purchase and deployment of the Highway 41 swing bridge structure. At present, we need about $65,000 to complete the project. We have purchased the structure and the barge it will be attached to, and will have them in our possession around July 12. Details on the multiple ways to contribute to this great project can be found in succeeding pages of this newsletter. See you on the docks!

Wally Jenkins
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>BOHICKET</th>
<th>GEORGETOWN</th>
<th>CBC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish Boat</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Gryphon</em> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Catch: 3 blue marlin released 1800 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Artemis</em> Owner: John Darby Captain: Legare Smith Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Toast</em> Owner: Ron Martin Captain: Newt Cagle Catch: 2 blue marlin and 7 sailfish released 2600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish Boat</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Mister Pete</em> Owner: Bob and Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Catch: 2 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released 1400 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Anticipation</em> Owner: Paul Coury Captain: Harvey Shiflet Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Micabe</em> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Catch: 1 blue marlin and 5 sailfish released 1600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish Boat</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Salty Maintenance</em> Owner: Brad Truluck Captain: Brad Truluck Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Chasin</em> Owner: Smyth McKisskck Captain: Bennett Griffin Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Palmetto Guard</em> Owner: The Johnson Family Captain: John Thomas Catch: 2 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released 1400 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Gryphon</em> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Catch: 3 blue marlin released 1800 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Artemis</em> Owner: John Darby Captain: Legare Smith Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Toast</em> Owner: Ron Martin Captain: Newt Cagle Catch: 2 blue marlin and 7 sailfish released 2600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservationist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish (landed)</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Game On</em> Owner: Bubba Roof Captain: Trey “Cricket” McMillan Catch: 500.2 pound blue marlin 501 points</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## AWARD

### BOHICKEt

**Outstanding Dolphin**
- **Boat:** *Dem Boys*
- **Owner:** Tommy Hancock
- **Captain:** Reid Bost
- **Angler:** Russ Tomlinson
- **Weight:** 55.9 pounds

**Outstanding Tuna**
- **Boat:** N/A
- **Owner:** N/A
- **Captain:** N/A
- **Angler:** N/A

**Outstanding Wahoo**
- **Boat:** *Syked Out*
- **Owner:** David Sykes
- **Captain:** Bobby Garmany
- **Angler:** Bryson Turner
- **Weight:** 89.8 pounds

## GEORGETOWN

**Outstanding Dolphin**
- **Boat:** *Tina’s Trippin’*
- **Owner:** Trip Rice
- **Captain:** Brett Wood
- **Angler:** Robby Harrison
- **Weight:** 51.2 pounds

**Outstanding Tuna**
- **Boat:** N/A
- **Owner:** N/A
- **Captain:** N/A
- **Angler:** N/A

**Outstanding Wahoo**
- **Boat:** *Big Sky*
- **Owner:** Jim Johnston
- **Captain:** Jim Johnston
- **Angler:** Trip Johnston
- **Weight:** 38.6 pounds

## CBC

**Outstanding Dolphin**
- **Boat:** *Sportsmann*
- **Owner:** Gary Wyatt
- **Captain:** Will Frederick
- **Angler:** Gavin Wyatt
- **Weight:** 44.9 pounds

**Outstanding Tuna**
- **Boat:** *High Maintenance*
- **Owner:** Jeff Kubu
- **Captain:** Dennis Brookshire
- **Angler:** Stacey Kubu
- **Weight:** 25.0 pounds

**Outstanding Wahoo**
- **Boat:** *Home Run*
- **Owner:** Steve Mungo
- **Captain:** Grant Bentley
- **Angler:** Hope Bentley
- **Weight:** 29.7 pounds

### Top Series Boats/Point Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Boat</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gryphon</td>
<td>3675</td>
<td>Micabe</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toast</td>
<td>2625</td>
<td>Rascal</td>
<td>1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chasin</td>
<td>2450</td>
<td>Full Pull</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mister Pete</td>
<td>2275</td>
<td>Artemis</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipation</td>
<td>2075</td>
<td>Dem Boys</td>
<td>1775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo credit**: Legal Holiday

**Website**: seahuntboats.com

**Phone**: 803-755-6539
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>BOHICCKET</th>
<th>GEORGETOWN</th>
<th>CBC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Gryphon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Colby Griffin&lt;br&gt;Captain: Chucky Moore&lt;br&gt;Angler: Chandler Griffin, age 15&lt;br&gt;Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Voodoo Child</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Dale Daly&lt;br&gt;Captain: Zack Adams&lt;br&gt;Angler: Sam Daly, age 15&lt;br&gt;Catch: 1 white marlin released 300 points</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Gryphon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Colby Griffin&lt;br&gt;Captain: Chucky Moore&lt;br&gt;Angler: Chandler Griffin, age 14&lt;br&gt;Catch: 5 sailfish released 1000 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Salty Maintenance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Brad Truluck&lt;br&gt;Captain: Brad Truluck&lt;br&gt;Angler: Mackenzie Truluck, age 15&lt;br&gt;Catch: 1 blue marlin released 1200 points</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Short People</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Aaron Nettles&lt;br&gt;Captain: Jeff Hagan&lt;br&gt;Angler: EJ Nettles, age 15&lt;br&gt;Catch: 30.2 pound dolphin</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Micabe</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Mike Larrow&lt;br&gt;Captain: Chris Jennings&lt;br&gt;Angler: Rance Jennings, age 13&lt;br&gt;Catch: 4 sailfish released 800 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Voodoo Child</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Sam Daly&lt;br&gt;Captain: Zack Adams&lt;br&gt;Angler: Sam Daly, age 15&lt;br&gt;Catch: 19.7 pound dolphin</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Gryphon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Colby Griffin&lt;br&gt;Captain: Chucky Moore&lt;br&gt;Angler: Chandler Griffin&lt;br&gt;Catch: 25.2 pound dolphin</td>
<td><strong>Boat: Petrel</strong>&lt;br&gt;Owner: Harry Johnson&lt;br&gt;Captain: Thomas Wynne&lt;br&gt;Angler: EJ Nettles, age 15&lt;br&gt;Catch: 2 sailfish released 400 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>Bohicket</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>CBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boat: <em>Rare Breed</em> Owner: Bubba Simmons Captain: Bubba Simmons Angler: Whitney Arnold Catch: 1 blue marlin landed (412.8 pounds) 413 pounds</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Nauti Girl</em> Owner: Justin and Angela Kohl Captain: Stevie Cramer Angler: Angie Matthews Catch: 20.2 pound dolphin</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Legal Holiday</em> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Eugenie Barrow Catch: 3 sailfish released 600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament Celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

Johnston, *Big Sky*, one of the founders of the Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament, has fished all 50 of the events. He is pictured left with Peace and Truluck, and above with his 2017 crew.

We had the privilege of great company over the weekend, including Iris Faye (pictured left), wife of late SC Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr., founder of the SC Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series. Also, we would like to thank Mr. Paul Spencer (below) of Spencer Yachts for joining us for the festivities!

We had the privilege of great company over the weekend, including Iris Faye (pictured left), wife of late SC Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr., founder of the SC Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series. Also, we would like to thank Mr. Paul Spencer (below) of Spencer Yachts for joining us for the festivities!

Right: Johnston and long-time friend Bill Church.

Pictured left to right: Marshall Truluck, Paul Spencer and Amy Dukes, SCGC Tournament Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE!
THE ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH!
The South Carolina Memorial Reef

We still need funds to add the Highway 41 swing bridge to the SC Memorial Reef structure in August! We’re also excited to announce the debut of the new SC Memorial Reef website: https://scmemorialreef.com/

DONATE TODAY!

There’s more than one way you can make a charitable contribution to the SC Memorial Reef fund. Please see below to find out how you can help! Remember, the Harry Hampton Wildlife fund is a 501 (c)-3 organization, and your donation is tax-deductible!

**Make checks payable to:**
Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O Amy Dukes, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422

Or:

**Donate online:**
- [https://scmemorialreef.com/] - Blue Donate button on top right and fill out the form.
- [http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/](http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/) and click the “DONATE NOW” button (via PayPal) on the left side of the page. After specifying donation amount, please write “SC Memorial Reef” in the instructions box to make sure it is accredited to the appropriate project. A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for your records for both online sources.

---

The Carolina Billfish Classic returned to the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th># Boats</th>
<th>Blue Marlin Released</th>
<th>Blue Marlin Landed</th>
<th>White Marlin</th>
<th>Sailfish</th>
<th>Total Billfish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bohicket</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 TOURNAMENTS

**BOHICKET**
MAY 10-13

**GEORGETOWN BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT**
MAY 24-27

**CAROLINA BILLFISH CLASSIC**
JUNE 21-24

**MEGADOCK**
JULY 5-8

**EDISTO BILLFISH INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT**
JULY 19-22

This newsletter is 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.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202.