



# TAG & RELEASE

Volume 22, No. 3



July 2017

<http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov>



## 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup>. 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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:BkBell1@bellsouth.net)

#### For more information, contact:

Amy Dukes, SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator  
[DukesA@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:DukesA@dnr.sc.gov) • <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/> • (843) 953-9365  
PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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





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Looking forward to seeing everyone on the docks for the 2017 Governor's Cup Series



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



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**SOUTH CAROLINA**

AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN	CBC
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>Dem Boys</i> Owner: Tommy Hancock Captain: Reid Bost Angler: Russ Tomlinson 55.9 pounds	Boat: Tina's Trippin' Owner: Trip Rice Captain: Brett Wood Angler: Robby Harrison 51.2 pounds	Boat: <i>Sportsmann</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Will Frederick Angler: Gavin Wyatt 44.9 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	N/A	N/A	Boat: <i>High Maintenance</i> Owner: Jeff Kubu Captain: Dennis Brookshire Angler: Stacey Kubu 25.0 pounds
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Bryson Turner 89.8 pounds	Boat: Big Sky Owner: Jim Johnston Captain: Jim Johnston Angler: Trip Johnston 38.6 pounds	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 29.7 pounds



#### Top Series Boats/Point Standings

Gryphon	3675	Micabe	1950
Toast	2625	Rascal	1875
Chasin	2450	Full Pull	1850
Mister Pete	2275	Artemis	1850
Anticipation	2075	Dem Boys	1775



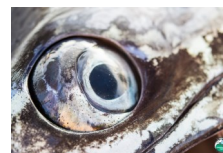
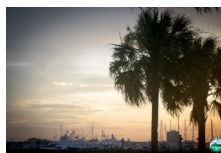
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AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN	CBC
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Angler: Chandler Griffin, age 15 Catch: 2 blue marlin released 1200 points	Boat: <i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Dale Daly Captain: Zack Adams Angler: Sam Daly, age 15 Catch: 1 white marlin released 300 points	Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Angler: Chandler Griffin, age 14 Catch: 5 sailfish released 1000 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Salty Maintenance</i> Owner: Brad Truluck Captain: Brad Truluck Angler: Mackenzie Truluck, age 15 Catch: 1 blue marlin released 1200 points	Boat: <i>Short People</i> Owner: Aaron Nettles Captain: Jeff Hagan Angler: EJ Nettles, age 15 Catch: 30.2 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings, age 13 Catch: 4 sailfish released 800 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Sam Daly Captain: Zack Adams Angler: Sam Daly, age 15 Catch: 19.7 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Angler: Chandler Griffin Catch: 25.2 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Captain: Thomas Wynne Angler: EJ Nettles, age 15 Catch: 2 sailfish released 400 points

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AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN	CBC
Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Game On</i> Owner: Bubba Roof Captain: Trey "Cricket" McMillan Angler: Kelli Ann Roof Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Eugenie Barrow Catch: 1 sailfish released 200 points	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley Catch: 1 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released 1200 points
Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Rare Breed</i> Owner: Bubba Simmons Captain: Bubba Simmons Angler: Whitney Arnold Catch: 1 blue marlin landed (412.8 pounds) 413 pounds	Boat: <i>Nauti Girl</i> Owner: Justin and Angela Kohl Captain: Stevie Crammer Angler: Angie Matthews Catch: 20.2 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Eugenie Barrow Catch: 3 sailfish released 600 points
Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>El Tejano</i> Owner: John Hill Captain: David Redd Angler: Kathy Baxley Catch: 49.2 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Briuno</i> Owner: Todd Bruner Captain: Todd Bruner Angler: Lisa Loud Catch: 16.8 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Toast</i> Owner: Ron Martin Captain: Newt Cagle Angler: Leigh Anne Brogan Catch: 1 sailfish released 200 points

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# The Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament Celebrates its 50th Anniversary!



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!



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.

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.hamptonwildlife.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!

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Billfish Numbers						
Tournament	# Boats	Blue Marlin Released	Blue Marlin Landed	White Marlin	Sailfish	Total Billfish
Bohicket	28	23	3	1	1	28
Georgetown	44	16	1	4	5	26
CBC	38	9	0	1	78	88
						142

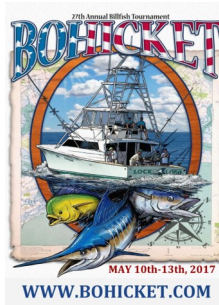
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## 2017 TOURNAMENTS



MAY 10-13



MAY 24-27



JUNE 21-24



JULY 5-8



JULY 19-22

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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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