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

Fort Johnson made it through early September with minimal damage from Hurricane Irma. A photo (pg. 6) taken during the height of the storm surge shows how narrowly we missed significant problems (credit SCNDR Law Enforcement Capt. Donnie Pritch). We hope that all of you were equally lucky. The good news is that the Island House at Ross Marine also dodged that bullet, and the Awards reception on September 29th went off without a hitch. Once again, A&P Catering and the Marina Variety Store prepared the meal, featuring marinated filet and their secret recipe potatoes, both of which I personally love, and Vinyl Daze provided the live music. The event was well attended and we had a great time handing out trophies to all of the Series winners. As you all know, Gryphon, owned by Colby Griffin and captained by Chucky Moore, won the Series by releasing 8 blue marlin and 13 sailfish, accumulating 7,475 points. This point total eclipsed the previous record of 6,075 points accumulated by Reel Passion in 2011, and alludes to the excellent fishing opportunities off our coast, which seem to continue to improve every year. This is also a testament to the conservation efforts and successes of the Series over the last 29 years. We were privileged to announce that In The Bite magazine named Chucky Moore East Coast Division Captain of the Year and mates Bryce Bell and Mark McDevitt (both of Gryphon) 2017 Mates of the Year.

In addition to the Series winners (outlined in this newsletter), some special recognition awards were also presented. Outgoing Chairman Mr. Mark Rogers received the Chairman’s Award, acknowledging his 6 years of dedicated service to the Advisory Board, the last serving as Chairman. Next, the Series bestowed a Special Recognition award to Stevens Towing Company, without whose willingness to go above and beyond, the current and previous Memorial Reef projects and the great fishing opportunities they have provided would not have been possible. Sadly, Mr. Stevens passed away earlier this year, but his family and employees continue to carry on his legacy. Now in its second year, The Series Mate of the Year went to Douglas Miller, mate for many years aboard Rascal, owned by Norman Pulliam and Foster McKissick. The award is based upon attributes including:
integrity, sportsmanship, reliability, leadership, fishing success, courtesy and willingness to go the extra mile to help others. Finally, the highlight of the evening was being able to present this year’s Carroll A. Campbell Award for contributions to billfish conservation in SC to Jim Johnston, owner and captain of Big Sky. Jim was instrumental in organizing the first Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament along with Marshall Truluck and Bony Peace, not to mention he has also fished in all 50 of them! Unfortunately, Jim was on a hunting trip in Montana and not able to attend the ceremony, but Marshall Truluck accepted the award on Jim’s behalf saying “I always wanted to be Jim Johnston - tonight is my chance!”

In late October, the Highway 41 bridge addition to the Memorial Reef was sunk within the Charleston Deep Reef MPA. Pisces IV, owned by Rich LaVecchia, was kind enough to take Kayla and Cameron offshore to witness the sinking. The structure landed very close to the designated spot, and forms a triangle with the other two barges in the MPA, facilitating trolling in the area. The sinking was witnessed by several other vessels, including SCDNR’s research vessel Palmetto and Law Enforcement’s JEA vessel piloted by Willie Ladue. In addition, recreational vessel High Yield managed to catch and release a sailfish in the immediate area while awaiting the deployment! This was a good omen for things to come. Also of great importance, your contributions toward this project over the last 9 months allowed us to meet our goal of $180,000. The Memorial Reef Account will remain active as we continue to receive contributions in memory of loved ones. Please visit the web site (https://scmemorialreef.com/) and see the improvements and updates that have been made this year. Thank you for your continued support!

Finally, thanks to Hurricane Irma, our Advisory Board meeting that was scheduled for early September was cancelled and rescheduled for November. It wasn’t until then that the 2018 schedule could be finalized, and we apologize for the delay and any inconvenience this may have caused. The 2018 schedule is on the front page, so mark your calendars and snap up your rentals!

I hope you all have a happy holiday season, and we’ll see you for our 30th Anniversary!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>SERIES WINNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish Boat</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Gryphon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Owner: Colby Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain: Chucky Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: 8 blue marlin &amp; 13 sailfish released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,475 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish Boat</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Mister Pete</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Owner: Bob and Rusty McClam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain: Alan Neiford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: 4 blue marlin &amp; 16 sailfish released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,675 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish Boat</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Toast</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Owner: Ron Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain: Newt Cagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: 5 blue marlin &amp; 12 sailfish released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,475 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Gryphon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservationist</td>
<td>Owner: Colby Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain: Chucky Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: 8 blue marlin &amp; 13 sailfish released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,475 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Billfish (landed)</td>
<td>Boat: <em>Game On</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: Bubba Roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain: Trey “Cricket” McMillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: 500.2 pound blue marlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>501 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWARD SERIES WINNERS

Outstanding Dolphin
Owner: Tommy Hancock
Captain: Reid Bost
Angler: Russ Tomlinson
55.9 pounds

Outstanding Tuna
Owner: Jeff Kubu
Captain: Dennis Brookshire
Angler: Stacey Kubu
25.0 pound Blackfin

Outstanding Wahoo
Owner: David Sykes
Captain: Bobby Garmany
Angler: Bryson Turner
89.8 pounds

Top Series Boats/Point Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gryphon</td>
<td>7,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mister Pete</td>
<td>5,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toast</td>
<td>5,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipation</td>
<td>5,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemis</td>
<td>4,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Sky</td>
<td>4,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rascal</td>
<td>3,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Run</td>
<td>3,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Pot</td>
<td>3,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Bill</td>
<td>2,475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWARD SERIES WINNERS

Outstanding Youth Angler
1st Place
Boat: *Gryphon*
Owner: Colby Griffin
Captain: Chucky Moore
Angler: Chandler Griffin, age 15
Catch: 5 blue marlin and 12 sailfish released
5,400 points

Outstanding Youth Angler
2nd Place
Boats: *Petrel & Tighten Up*
Owners: Harry Johnson, Jr. & B&O Boat, LLC
Captains: Thomas Wynne & Kevin Overstreet
Angler: E.J. Nettles, age 15
Catch: 8 sailfish released
1,600 points

Outstanding Youth Angler
3rd Place
Boat: *Salty Maintenance*
Owner: Brad Truluck
Captain: Brad Truluck
Angler: Mackenzi Truluck
Catch: 1 blue marlin & 5 sailfish released
1,600 points
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>SERIES WINNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Outstanding Female Angler| **1st Place** Boat: *Home Run*  
Owner: Steve Mungo  
Captain: Grant Bentley  
Angler: Hope Bentley  
Catch: 3 blue marlin and 5 sailfish released  
2,800 points |
|                          | **2nd Place** Boat: *Legal Holiday*  
Owner: Fred Bergen  
Captain: Lawrence Bradham  
Angler: Eugenie Barrow  
Catch: 6 sailfish released  
1,200 points |
|                          | **3rd Place** Boats: *Anticipation & Rare Breed*  
Owners: Paul Coury & Bubba Simmons  
Captains: Harvey Shiflet & Bubba Simmons  
Angler: Whitney Arnold  
Catch: 1 blue marlin landed (412.8 pounds)  
& 2 sailfish released  
813 points |

SCDNR, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
HURRICANE IRMA  
Photo Credit: Capt. Donnie Pritcher, SCDNR LE
2017 Mate of the Year
Now in its second year, the Mate of the Year Award is given to a Series mate who shows great dedication and hard work throughout the season. This year’s recipient is Douglas Miller (pictured below) on Rascal.

Chairman’s Award
Outgoing Chairman Mr. Mark K. Rogers (pictured left) was presented a small token of appreciation for his dedicated service to the Advisory Board as Chairman this past year and for his previous five years on the Board.

Special thanks were given to several boats who offered assistance to others this summer. Humidor boxes were given to Voodoo Child (pictured right), Kobiyashi Maru, Nauti Girl and Sportsmann as tokens of our gratitude.

Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award
This special award was created to honor individuals and families who have been leaders in the billfish conservation in our state. The 2017 Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award went to James S. Johnston, owner and captain of Big Sky. Johnston, who, along with Marshall Truluck and Bony Peace, was instrumental in organizing the first Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament and has fished in all 50 of them! Johnston was also featured in the May issue of Marlin Magazine this summer. Unfortunately he couldn’t be at the Awards Reception, so his lifelong friend Marshall Truluck (pictured left) accepted the award on his behalf.

CBC honors Mr. Mike Altine
Deidre Menefee and the Carolina Billfish Classic has honored and remembered Mr. Mike Altine, Sr. through the creation of a perpetual trophy, which will be given to the top billfish boat at the CBC each year hereafter.

Stevens Towing Company
The Series recognized Stevens Towing Co. for their efforts on the last two Memorial Reef projects. Sadly, Mr. Stevens passed away earlier this year, but his family and employees will carry on his legacy.
The South Carolina Memorial Reef

We did it! The Highway 41 bridge is now at the bottom of the ocean and is serving its purpose of creating critical habitat for imperiled snapper and grouper species. Undoubtedly, sea life has begun to take hold on the structure, and soon larger fish will recruit to the area, attracting our beloved pelagic species. As you may recall, the Charleston Deep Reef Project/SC Memorial Reef is a Type II Marine Protected Area, which can be trolled over, but bottom fishing is prohibited—which means increased opportunity for billfishing while protecting spawning grouper species. Our excitement flourishes in providing a more plentiful environment in an area otherwise devoid of any natural hard substrate. On to the next project!

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

Donate online:
- [https://scmemorialreef.com/](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 from both online sources.
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.