



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 23, No. 3



July 2018

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



Series Reflections

The season started off with a bang at Bohicket with 43 boats, and concluded with Nick Macpherson throwing in a game changing decision at the 11th hour by rolling nearly \$70,000 in registration fees into the tournament awards. At Georgetown, we had the highest participation we've seen in a while, with 58 boats. Fishing was good and the land-based activities were over the top. The hand-carved tournament awards made by the same individual who makes the Series Awards, Chris Costello, were and continue to be a highlight. Then, after a three week hiatus, we rolled into the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina well rested and ready for the Carolina Billfish Classic. Fifty-five boats participated, and with most of them on B dock, it made for a great atmosphere. During the break, fishing had flipped from a dominance of blue marlin to sailfish as compared to the first two tournaments. As this newsletter is published, we are preparing for back-to-back Megadock and Edisto tournaments, and in just two short (long) weeks, the 30th season will be in the history books.

Reflecting back over the Series history, we often think of the winners, all the great sponsors, and of course, Governor Campbell for getting the concept off the ground and widely accepted. But none of this would have happened without significant input from the Wildlife Department/DNR staff. Going way back into the late 1970's, staff, primarily Don Hammond, started attending blue water tournaments and collecting data on catch per unit effort of billfish and other species using much of the same approach as we use today, over 40 years later. I don't know for sure, but I imagine these data were used by him and others to convince policy makers that something needed to be done to change the catch and kill nature of these events to something more conservation minded. In 1989, the Series was established, providing incentives for releasing billfish and meatfish. As part of this program, an annual reporting requirement was created. Reading through these 30 years of reports, I've noticed that one thing is typically missing: acknowledgement of those individuals who stood on the docks, rain or shine, to collect the important fishery



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30th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2018 Tournament Schedule

May 9 - 12 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Nick Macpherson
1880 Andell Bluff Boulevard
Johns Island, SC 29455

dockmaster@Bohicket.com
(843) 786-1280

May 23 - 26 51st Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: Ed Keelin
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442

ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com
(843) 546-1776

June 20 - 23 Carolina Billfish Classic

Contact: Deidre Menefee
20 Patriots Point Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

dm@fishebc.com
(843) 345-0369

July 11 - 14 Megadock Billfishing Tournament

Contact: McKenzie Hutaff
P.O. Box 759
Charleston, SC 29402

mhutaff@megadock.us
(843) 278-4920

July 18 - 21 Edisto Invitational Billfishing Tournament

Contact: Brian Bell
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

bkbell1@bellsouth.net
(843) 631-5055

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

data that is essential for managing these recreationally important species. So, in an effort to rectify that, I am going to list the names of individuals who contributed by decade. You, the reader, may remember some of them, and while others may have only been around for a few years, they are all important. Of course, Don was the program leader from 1989 until 1999. In 2000, Wayne Waltz took over until his retirement from DNR in 2005. Then in 2005, Tom Dupré, who actually started assisting Don and Kay Davy in the 1993 season and holds the record for longest tenure (15 years), was the program leader for 3 seasons ending in 2007. During those years, they had a number of folks who helped out. In the 1990's, the list includes Shelly Knight, Barclay McCurdy, Kim Iverson, Dean Cain, Kristen Lennox and Michele Cunningham. In the early 2000's, there was my late wife Nan Jenkins, Kris Reynolds, Brent Merritt and Lyndsay Roberg. Amy Dukes started volunteering in 2001 and was the logical choice to replace Tom beginning with the 2008 season. I was brought on for adult supervision. Since then, Amy and I have had three standout employees to help us, including Elizabeth Miller, Jesse Alderson, and now Kayla Rudnay. Each

of these individuals is responsible for the present day relevance and success of the Series, and should be remembered and thanked for their dedication and service. Until next time; safe travels.

Wally Jenkins





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Looking forward to seeing everyone on the docks for the 2018 Governor's Cup Series



| AWARD | BOHICKET | GEORGETOWN | CBC |
|--|--|---|--|
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Catch: 4 blue marlin released 2400 points | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Catch: 3 blue marlin released 1800 points | Boat: <i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson Catch: 7 sailfish & 1 white marlin released 1700 points |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place | Boat: <i>Full Pull</i> Owner: John Floyd Captain: Ryan Riggs Catch: 2 blue marlin, 1 white marlin & 2 sailfish released 1900 points | Boat: <i>Glazed</i> Owner: Miles Herring Captain: Miles Herring Catch: 1 blue & 1 white marlin released 900 points | Boat: <i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner Catch: 2 blue marlin & 2 sailfish released 1600 points |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place | Boat: <i>Artemis</i> Owner: John Darby Captain: Chucky Moore Catch: 3 blue marlin released 1800 points | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Catch: 1 blue & 1 white marlin released 900 points | Boat: <i>Grander</i> Owner: Terrell Rhye Captain: Larry Branham Catch: 2 blue marlin & 1 sailfish released 1400 points |
| Outstanding Billfish Conservationist | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Catch: 4 blue marlin released 2400 points | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Catch: 3 blue marlin released 1800 points | Boat: <i>Reel Passion</i> Owner: Bill Ingram Captain: Gary Richardson Catch: 7 sailfish & 1 white marlin released 1700 points |
| Outstanding Billfish (landed) | N/A | N/A | N/A |



We were happy to grab some photos of Jim Johnston, *Big Sky*, with his 2017 Carroll A. Campbell Award! Thank you again for all you do, captain!



H. HILTON
YACHT & SHIP



| AWARD | BOHICKET | GEORGETOWN | CBC |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Outstanding Dolphin | Boat: <i>El Tejano</i> Owner: John Hill Captain: David Redd Angler: Jay Griswold Catch: 34.2 pounds | Boat: <i>Game Changer</i> Owner: Peter Lorris Captain: Geoff Rosenberry Angler: Brian McCaffree Catch: 41.3 pounds | Boat: <i>Legacy</i> Owner: Jim Shannon Captain: Wren Fogle Angler: Kevin Branigan Catch: 54.4 pounds |
| Outstanding Tuna | Boat: <i>Man Cave</i> Owner: MCF Family Holdings, LLC Captain: Billy Gressette Angler: Brandon Long Catch: 16.7 pound Blackfin | Boat: <i>Christy II</i> Owner: Stephen Godfrey & Trey Pierce Captain: Stephen Godfrey Angler: Carlyle Willis Catch: 15.8 pound Blackfin | Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Fred Bergen Catch: 26.8 pound blackfin |
| Outstanding Wahoo | N/A | Boat: <i>Daymaker</i> Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek Captain: Bobby Krivohlavek Angler: Ryan McFaden Catch: 27.2 pounds | Boat: <i>Bench Mark</i> Owner: Stephen Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Stephen Davis Catch: 46.3 pounds |
| Blue Water Conservationist | Boat: <i>Salty Maintenance</i> Owner: Brad Truluck Captain: Brad Truluck Catch: Tag and release of 6 dolphin 300 points | Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owner: Dennis Edwards Captain: Rick Burke Catch: Tag and release of 5 dolphin 250 points | Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owner: Dennis Edwards Captain: Rick Burke Catch: Tag and release of 5 dolphin 250 points |

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SPORTSMAN

| AWARD | BOHICKET | GEORGETOWN | CBC |
|---|---|--|--|
| Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany Catch: 1 blue marlin & 1 spearfish released 900 points | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points |
| Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place | Boat: <i>My Three Sons</i> Owner: Hunter Edwards Captain: Michael Mattson Angler: Andrea Parker Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points | Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Eugenie Barrow Catch: 1 blue marlin & 1 sailfish released 800 points | Boat: <i>Grander</i> Owner: Terrell Rhye Captain: Larry Branham Angler: April Martin Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points |
| Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place | Boat: <i>Tina's Trippin'</i> Owner: Trip Rice Captain: Brett Wood Angler: Lindsey Morrill Catch: 28.4 pound dolphin | Boat: <i>El Tejano</i> Owner: John Hill Captain: David Redd Angler: Kathy Baxley Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points | Boat: <i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Mike Jackson Captain: Stevie Leasure Angler: Shannon Smoak Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points |



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| AWARD | BOHICKET | GEORGETOWN | CBC |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place | Boat: <i>Grander</i> Owner: Terrell Rhye Captain: Larry Branham Angler: Will Marrow Catch: 23.2 pound dolphin | Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Jamie Holcombe Angler: Chandler Griffin Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points | Boat: <i>Rare Breed</i> Owner: Bubba Simmons Captain: Bubba Simmons Angler: River Simmons Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points |
| Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place | Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Jamie Holcombe Angler: Chandler Griffin Catch: 24.7 pound dolphin | Boat: <i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings Catch: 1 sailfish released 200 points | Boat: <i>Petrel</i> Owner: Harry Johnson Captain: Thomas Wynne Angler: Cordes Johnson Catch: 1 blue marlin released 600 points |
| Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place | Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Jamie Holcombe Angler: Carson Paluscsak Catch: 19.4 pound dolphin | Boat: <i>Grander</i> Owner: Terrell Rhye Captain: Larry Branham Angler: Iain Rhye Catch: 29.4 pound dolphin | Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owner: Kevin Overstreet & Rick Burke Captain: Rick Burke Angler: Riley Overstreet Catch: 1 sailfish released 200 points |



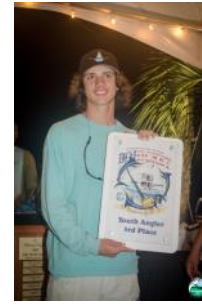
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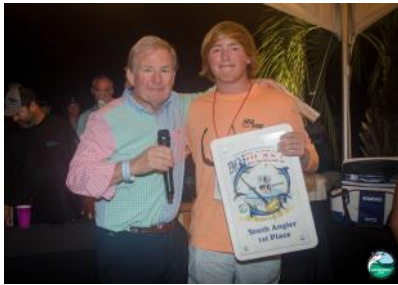
Mister Pete is still after the Series Cup, with two wins at Bohicket and Georgetown, and Sportin' Life is right on their heels!



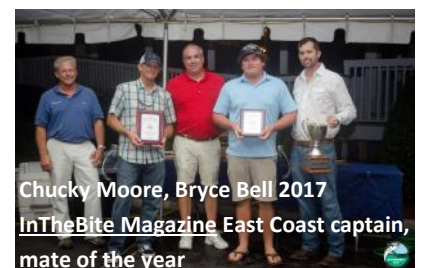
Mister Pete



Bohicket Winners



Georgetown
Winners



Chucky Moore, Bryce Bell 2017
InTheBite Magazine East Coast captain,
mate of the year



The SCDNR Board recognized Series Advisory Board Chairman Stevie Leasure for his vision and efforts for the SC Memorial Reef project.



CBC Winners





Mister Pete



Stadium



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Where
are all



the
billfish?!

We need your help! Numbers of reported billfish releases and landings are way down this year. We hope that it's due to lack of reporting and not low numbers of billfish around! Please let us know about any releases or landings, past or present, by emailing rudnayk@dnr.sc.gov. We'll also send you a certificate for your release and release cards if you need them!

BE REMINDED: You must report **landings** of all billfish (and bluefin tuna!) **within 24 hours** to National Marine Fisheries Service! You can do this online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/reportLands> or by calling 1-800-894-5528.



SCDNR, Shellfish Research Section



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
AWARDS RECEPTION ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH!

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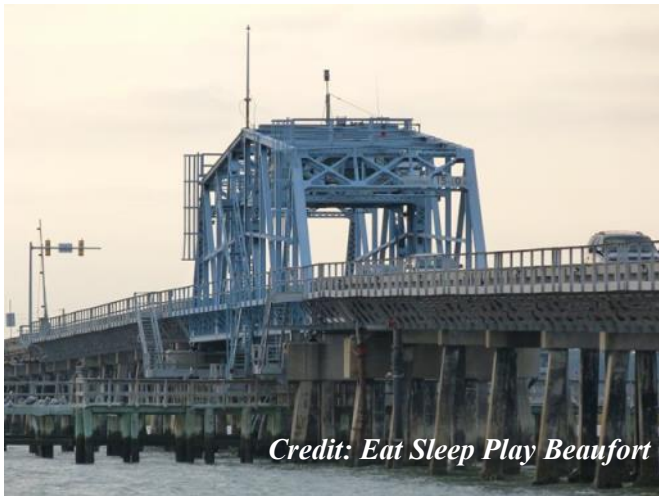


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Our sights are set on our next endeavor! The Harbor Island Bridge in Beaufort is set to be replaced, and we need your help to start fundraising once again to put this awesome structure at the bottom of the ocean! We've seen so much life and productivity from the structures already sunk in the Charleston Deep Reef area - imagine the benefits of having this beauty attracting even more activity!



The SC Memorial Reef

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:

Visit 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.

TOP BOATS

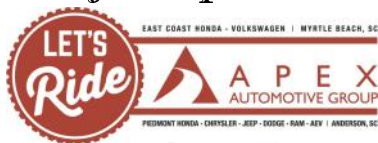
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|------------------|------|------------------|------|
| 1. Mister Pete | 4275 | 6. Syked Out | 2175 |
| 2. Sportin' Life | 4075 | 7. My Three Sons | 1875 |
| 3. Artemis | 3275 | 8. Home Run | 1775 |
| 4. Grander | 3275 | 9. Reel Passion | 1775 |
| 5. Full Pull | 2475 | 10. Bad Becky | 1675 |

|  | BOH | GT | CBC |
|---|-----|----|-----|
| Boats | 43 | 58 | 55 |
| Blues | 24 | 17 | 17 |
| Whites | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Spears | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sails | 8 | 11 | 49 |



C O N T R A C T I N G

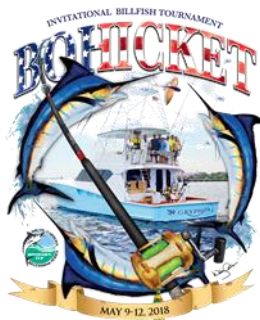
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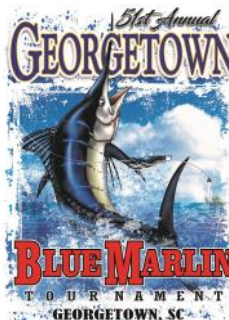
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2018 TOURNAMENTS



MAY 9 - 12



MAY 23 - 26



JUNE 20 - 23



JULY 11 - 14



JULY 18 - 21

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.